TEAM SPIRIT: Women's baseball conference is a league of its own | **Page 12**

express



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Weekend



AP

Low inventory means high prices at the pump.

Higher Still: No relief likely from ever-rising gas prices | 10

Not Defeated: Immigration backers beat key challenges | 3



Full Speed: Danica Patrick is right at home on her new team | 16

ENTERTAINMENT



Jack Is Back: *Johnny Depp* returns in 'Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End.' Plus 'Once,' 'Paris Je T'aime,' and the 'Idol' winner.

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Weather >> Mostly Sunny

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FULL FORECAST ON PAGE 46



SKIRTS THAT FLIRT

MINIS, PENCILS AND MORE SHOW OFF SEXY LEGS | WEEKEND STYLES



SALVATORE LAPORTA/AP

Naples Frets as Trash Piles Up

FILTHY: An employee works inside the Caivano dump, near Naples, Italy, on Thursday. Full dumps have prevented collectors from hauling away the city's trash for nearly two weeks, and the crisis may worsen with the planned weekend closure of the only working dump in the area. Italian President Giorgio Napolitano warned that Naples risked a potential "ecological and health disaster."

Congress Concedes On Funds

Backing down on timeline, Democrats approve war bill

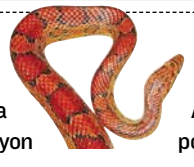
WASHINGTON | Bowing to President Bush, the Democratic-controlled House reluctantly approved fresh billions for the Iraq war on Thursday, minus the troop withdrawal timeline that drew his earlier veto.

The 280-142 vote sent the bill to the Senate for final passage, expected later Thursday night.

"The Iraqi government needs to show real progress in return for America's continued support and sacrifice," said Bush, and he warned that August could prove to be a bloody month for U.S. troops in Baghdad's murderous neighborhoods.

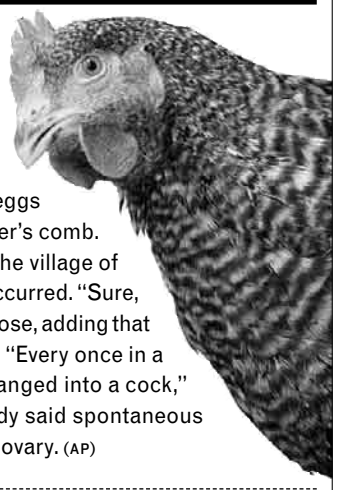
In power on Capitol Hill for five months, Democrats coupled their concession to the president with pledges to challenge his policies anew. "This debate will go on," vowed House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, announcing plans to hold votes by fall on four separate measures seeking a change in course.

From the White House to the Capitol, the day's events closed out one chapter in an epic, wartime struggle pitting Congress against commander in chief over the future of a war that has claimed the lives of more than 3,400 U.S. troops. DAVID ESPO (AP)



REPTILES | **Snakes on a ... Nevermind** Customs officers at Cairo's airport on Thursday detained a man bound for Saudi Arabia who was trying to smuggle 700 live snakes onto a plane. Officers were stunned when Yahia Rahim Tulba said his carryon bag contained live snakes. Tulba opened his bag to show the snakes to the police and asked the officers not to come close. Among the various snakes, hidden in small cloth sacks, were two poisonous cobras, authorities said. (AP) EyeOpeners | Page 2

eyeOpeners



GENDER

Even as an Egg, Chicken Knew She Was Different

A chicken has gone through a rare spontaneous sex change in India. The bird laid viable eggs six months ago, then began to grow a rooster's comb. Earlier this week, a team of experts visited the village of Kamat-Chengrabanda, where the incident occurred. "Sure, it's rare," said veterinarian Partha Sarathi Ghose, adding that the owner has called the incident a miracle. "Every once in a while, you hear a story about a hen that changed into a cock," says a University of Florida report. The study said spontaneous sex reversals can result from damage to one ovary. (AP)

SHAME

800 Pairs of Granny Panties Unclaimed

Police are asking Colorado women a delicate question: Are these your panties? As part of an investigation into widespread underwear theft, police have invited women to view photos of about 1,300 undergarments stolen near Colorado State University. Chih Hsien Wu, 43, is suspected of taking $6,000 worth of undergarments between Sept. 23 and May 18. The women can't reclaim their panties yet. Once the case is closed, the victims can have their unmentionables back — if they still want them. (AP)



JOHN STILLWELL/AP

WAX

Earth Unimpressed

Madame Tussauds unveiled a new environmentally friendly wax figure of Prince Charles to reflect his efforts to combat climate change. To create its first "green" figure, workers recycled wax from a 1989 figure of the Prince of Wales and added 82 pounds of organic beeswax, 55 pounds of clay and fiberglass. Sculptors worked only in daylight to reduce electricity use and rode bikes to meetings. The remaining carbon the process generated was to be offset by the planting of three trees in Cornwall. (AP)



Tasers don't stun people. Uniformed police officers at parties stun people.

IDIOTS

'YouTube Fame Is So Worth 50,000 Volts'

A police officer who demonstrated his Taser by zapping a willing subject in the genitals earned a warning from his bosses. Officer Randy Reynolds of Tenino, Wash., ran into trouble when video of the incident made it to YouTube.com. Reynolds had been at a social gathering, in uniform. The man repeatedly asked Reynolds to zap him. "He just wanted to know what it felt like. Randy didn't want to do it at first, but the guy kept asking," said Interim Police Chief Larry Dickerson. (AP)

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Special Report solves the "My home isn't selling" problem

WASHINGTON METRO – A "Special Report" explodes what its author exposes as "The myth of slow home sales." In fact, the Report explains, in clear and plain English, how a home owner who wants to sell can not only count on a sale within 120 days but can be guaranteed that the sale will occur.

The Report proves its accuracy by quoting specific local instances in which the technique it describes has sold homes time after time, quickly, efficiently, and at a favorable price.

The author of the report, noted realtor Frank Sanya, has made numerous appearances on both television and radio. Mr. Sanya states that the Report represents the compendium of his many years of real estate experience and can be of substantial value to homeowners, especially those whose homes have been on the market unsold for a considerable period of time. The author emphasizes that although he does not accept every listing, by following the Report's procedures he accomplishes a sale in every instance in which he is the broker of record.

The secret, says the Report, is a combination of traits and procedures that consistently result in a successful sale. For a free copy of the Report, go to a private but available Web site – **www.WantItSoldNow.com.**

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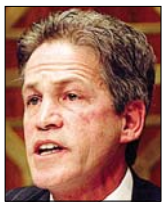
BAD VISION: St. Joseph Hospital in Bellingham, Wash., was locked down on Thursday after a woman called to report a man with an assault rifle walking into the building. Police discovered the man was actually carrying a prosthetic leg.

Nation

Legislation Escapes 2 Close Calls

Immigration deal remains in place after changes are rejected

WASHINGTON | Proponents of a broad U.S. immigration measure narrowly beat back potentially fatal challenges Thursday, including an effort to phase out the temporary worker program.



Coleman

The Senate rejected, 49-48, a proposal by Sen. Byron Dorgan, a Democrat, to end the temporary worker program after five years. Earlier in the day, by the same vote margin, senators voted down a proposal by Sen. Norm Coleman, a Republican, to allow government authorities to question someone about his immigration status if they had probable cause to suspect the person was in the U.S. illegally.

The razor-thin votes illustrated the tenuous nature of the immigration measure. But the defeats also showed the durability of the unlikely coalition that reached the agreement and is fiercely lobbying rank-and-file senators to preserve it.

"We are still together, and we're moving forward," said Sen. Ken Salazar, D-Colo. (AP)

Document: Red Tape Blocking Gear

Military report says Marines rarely receive badly needed items

WASHINGTON | The system for delivering urgently needed gear to Marines in Iraq has failed to meet many urgent requests for equipment from troops in the field, according to an internal document obtained by The Associated Press.

Of more than 100 requests from deployed Marine units between February 2006 and February 2007, less than 10 percent have been fulfilled, the document says. It blamed the bureaucracy and a "risk-averse" approach by acquisition officials.

Among the items held up were a mine resistant vehicle and a handheld laser system.

"Process worship cripples operating forces," according to the document. "Civilian middle management lacks technical and operational currency."



LOLITA BALDOR/AP

A Marine in Fallujah, Iraq, points out blast marks on a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicle during a visit by Defense Secretary Robert Gates in April.

The 32-page document — labeled "For Official Use Only" — was prepared by the staff of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force after they returned from Iraq in February.

The document was to be presented in March to senior officials in the Pentagon's defense research and engineering office. The presentation was canceled by Marine Corps leaders because its contents were deemed too contentious, according to a defense official familiar with the document.

The document's claims run counter to the public description of a process intended to cut through the layers of red tape that frequently slow the military's procurement process.

The document lists 24 examples of equipment urgently needed by Marines in Iraq's Anbar province. One piece of equipment, the mine resistant ambush protected vehicle, has received attention as a promising way to protect troops from roadside blasts. (AP)

Bribery Allegations in Slavery Case

Couple are accused of keeping 2 women captive in their home

CENTRAL ISLIP, N.Y. | A millionaire couple accused of keeping two Indonesian women as slaves were held in jail on Thursday amid new allegations that the women's relatives have been threatened and offered bribes to make the case go away.



HOWARD SCHNAPP/AP

Mahender Murlidhar Sabhnani was arrested Tuesday on forced labor charges.

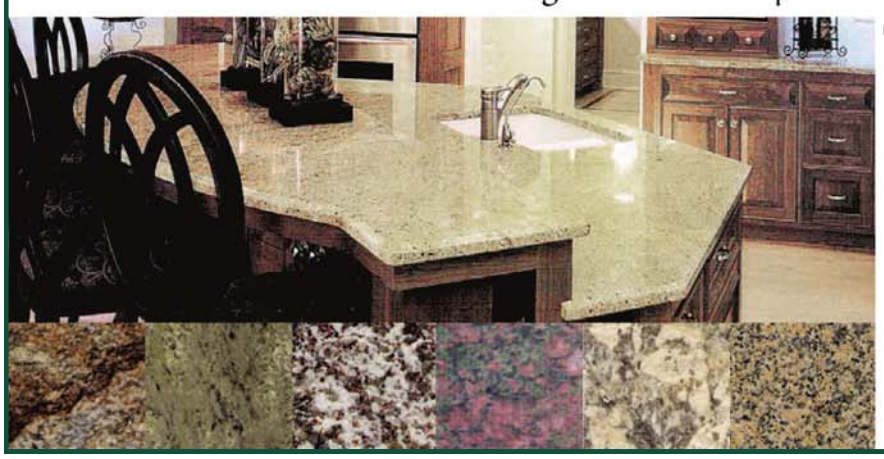
Varsha Mahender Sabhnani and her husband, Mahender Murlidhar Sabhnani, pleaded not guilty at their arraignment on federal slavery charges.

Prosecutors have called the allegations against the couple, who are U.S. citizens originally from India, "truly a case of modern-day slavery."

Lesko and Assistant U.S. Attorney Demetri Jones announced new allegations that Varsha Sabhnani's mother, who lives in Indonesia, tried to bribe the son-in-law of one of the victims for the equivalent of $2,500. Then, they said, someone else associated with her family threatened relatives of the other victim.

The prosecutors would not disclose where in Indonesia the incidents occurred.

Defense lawyers, who have denied that the workers were abused or held against their will, said the new allegations would be "withdrawn or proven to be false." (AP)

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Nation



"I know there are some Republicans, or some people in the country, who are looking for someone who is anti-gay, and that's not me."
—**Presidential hopeful Mitt Romney**, who says he is opposed to same-sex marriage but is not intolerant of gays

Schoolmates Mourn Slain Soldier

Army confirms body found floating in Iraq river is California man

TORRANCE, CALIF. | Schoolmates remembered Pfc. Joseph Anzack Jr. as a gentle jock Thursday, hours after Army officials confirmed the 20-year-old's body was found during an exhaustive search for him and two other soldiers ambushed in Iraq.

Friends at South High School observed a moment of silence and described him as a "pumped up" athlete who made them laugh and comforted them when they needed it.

"You'd be sad and sitting there by yourself, and he'd come up to you and just talk to you, and say, 'Hey, how's your day? Are you OK?'" childhood friend Erika Esquivel said.

Anzack, who graduated two years ago, should be honored for "his service to America and for representing South High and Torrance so proudly and so well," Principal Scott McDowell told students in a second-period classroom announcement.



DAMIAN DOVARGANES/AP

Vic Rosenthal lays flowers at a makeshift memorial at South High School in Torrance, Calif. Slain soldier Pfc. Joseph Anzack Jr. was a graduate of the school.

Outside, the front steps became a makeshift shrine of flowers, flags and balloons, marked with a sign reading: "You're our HERO." The soldier's Web page was also flooded with condolences.

Anzack, an Army gunner, vanished with two other soldiers May 12 when their combat team was ambushed about 20 miles outside of Baghdad. The attack, subsequently claimed by al-Qaeda, killed four other Americans and an Iraqi.

Anzack's family had held out hope for the past 11 days. They had already endured a rumor weeks earlier that he was dead, then said Army officials told them Wednesday that a body found floating in the Euphrates River was his.

At South, Anzack played football and was on the wrestling and swim teams. He was "always pumped up and ready to try something new," Esquivel said.

In Iraq, members of Anzack's platoon choked back tears at news of his death and said they would not stop looking for the other two missing soldiers.

"We can't leave them behind. I just hope that they have enough faith to keep them going. What they're going through right now, I can't imagine," said Pfc. Sammy Rhodes, 25, of Albuquerque, N.M. (AP)

In Brief

MEQUON, WIS.

Gas Station Owner Protests Fuel Prices With Shutdown

Motorists pulled in to Harvey Pollack's gas station Thursday, honked and gave him a thumbs-up — because he wasn't selling any fuel. The owner of Towne Market Mobil in this suburb north of Milwaukee shut down his pumps for 24 hours, hoping to start a movement aimed at convincing oil companies to lower their prices. Yellow caution tape surrounded Pollack's six idle pumps for his protest, which drew dozens of drivers. (AP)



MEL EVANS/AP

New Jersey Gov. Jon S. Corzine is still recovering from a car accident in April.

TRENTON, N.J.

Gov. Corzine Promotes Seat Belt Use in TV Ad

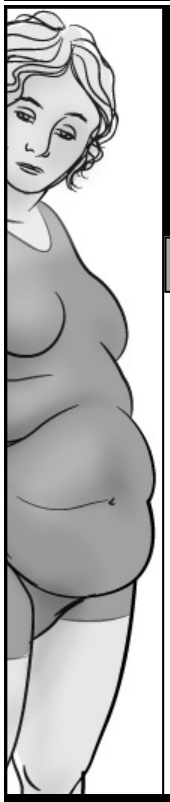
"I'm New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine, and I should be dead."

So begins Corzine's public service announcement promoting seat belt use, which was released Thursday ahead of the Memorial Day weekend. The governor was critically injured in an April 12 car crash in which he wasn't wearing a seat belt. Corzine worked with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration on the message. (AP)

RIO VISTA, CALIF.

Biologists Temporarily Halt Efforts to Rescue Whales

Marine biologists temporarily halted efforts to coax two lost, injured whales back to the Pacific on Thursday morning, after the sounds of clanging pipes, feeding humpbacks and killer orcas failed to convince the pair to head back to saltwater. The mother whale and her calf were last spotted in the Sacramento River about 70 miles from the ocean. (AP)



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Ohio Lethal Injection Delayed by Problems

Execution takes more than an hour as staff struggles to find veins

LUCASVILLE, OHIO | An execution was delayed more than an hour Thursday while prison medical staff struggled to find suitable veins in the condemned man's arms — the second time that has happened in Ohio in a little more than a year.

The execution team stuck Christopher Newton at least 10 times with needles to get in place the shunts used to administer the lethal chemicals. Newton, who had insisted on the death penalty as punishment for killing a cell mate, continued to talk with the prison staff, and at one point took a bathroom break.

Newton was pronounced dead at 11:53 a.m. at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility; his execution had been set to begin at 10 a.m.



SCOTT OSBORNE/AP

Cathy Grant attends the execution of her cousin, Christopher Newton.

The public defender's office defended its decision not to intervene when the execution was delayed.

"Our job isn't to oppose the death penalty; it's to represent our clients," said Greg Meyer, chief counsel for the Ohio Public Defender's Office. (AP)

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Nation



MELEVANS/AP

The Institute of Medicine released a report on that Thursday urged lawmakers to give the Food and Drug Administration regulatory powers over the tobacco industry.

Panel Urges Cut In Nicotine Levels

Institute says the FDA should be authorized to regulate tobacco

WASHINGTON | The Food and Drug Administration should regulate tobacco and develop a plan to reduce nicotine levels in cigarettes, the Institute of Medicine urged Thursday.

Its report calls on Congress and the president to give the FDA the authority to enforce standards for nicotine reduction and to regulate companies' claims that their products reduce exposure or risk.

"We propose aggressive steps to end the tobacco problem — that is, to reduce tobacco use so substantially that it is no longer a significant public health problem," said Richard J. Bonnie, director of the Institute of Law, Psychiatry and Public Policy at the University of Virginia School of Law. Bonnie was chairman of the committee that prepared the report.

The report notes that cigarettes are unique in that they contain carcinogens and other dangerous toxins and would be banned under federal law if these statutes did not expressly exempt tobacco.

A bill currently before Congress would give the FDA authority to regulate tobacco. Cigarette maker Philip Morris USA has been supporting the legislation.

"FDA regulation creates a uniform set of federal standards for the manufacture and marketing of all tobacco products," Michael E. Szymanczyk, chairman and chief executive officer of Philip Morris USA, said earlier this year.

In addition to requiring a cut in nicotine, the institute — a branch of the National Academy of Sciences — called for higher taxes on tobacco and nationwide indoor smoking bans. RANDOLPH E. SCHMID (AP)

WALKING IS A GAMBLE: Tourists on the Las Vegas strip, exhausted by the four miles of decadence laid out before them, are paying $40 a day to ride electric "mobility scooters" that are intended for the infirm. Several hotel bell desk workers said they try to discourage people who do not appear to need the scooters from renting them, often to no avail.

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World



GONE GREEN: London's Trafalgar Square hasn't moved — it's just had a temporary makeover. One of the city's most famous concrete patches was covered with soft green sod as part of a campaign to entice people out of the city center and into some of the capital's more rural areas.

In Brief



BASSEM TELLAWI/AP

Supporters of Syrian President Bashar Assad rally in Damascus on Thursday.

DAMASCUS, SYRIA

Thousands Show Support For Assad's Second Term

Hundreds of thousands of Syrians thronged the main square of the capital on Thursday to support a second seven-year term for President Bashar Assad. The rally of more than 300,000 came ahead of a referendum on Sunday when voters are expected to approve a second mandate for Assad, who succeeded his father Hafez Assad in 2000 at the helm of Syria's autocratic regime. (AP)

TRIPOLI, LEBANON

PM Vows to Oust Islamic Group as Fighting Flares Up

Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Saniora vowed Thursday to wipe out an Islamic militant group barricaded in a Palestinian refugee camp, raising the prospect that the army will either storm the camp, in what would likely be a bloody battle, or dig in for a long siege to force its surrender. Sporadic gunfire marred the two-day-old truce as the army moved troops around the Nahr el-Bared camp. (AP)

MUMBAI, INDIA

Activist Group: 11 Farmers Commit Suicide Over Debts

At least 11 farmers have committed suicide in the past two days in a western Indian state after failing to repay bank loans because of crop failures, an activist group said Thursday. Three farmers hanged themselves, while the rest swallowed pesticide in seven cotton-growing districts of Maharashtra state, said Kishore Tiwari, president of the Vidarbha Jan Andolan Samiti, or People's Movement. (AP)

26 Killed in Attack on Iraqi Funeral

Fallujah strike comes as U.S. pushes on with hunt for missing troops

BAGHDAD | A bomb hidden in a parked car struck the funeral procession of a Sunni tribal leader who was gunned down earlier Thursday, killing at least 26 mourners as al-Qaeda appeared to turn up a campaign of frightening its growing opposition into submission.

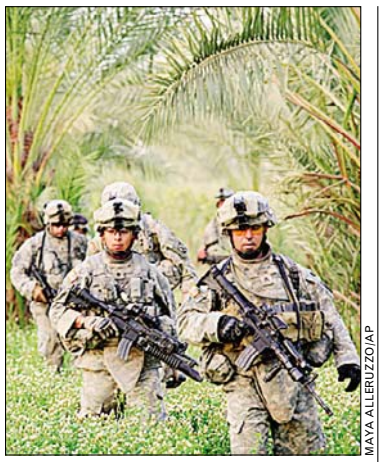
The attack in Fallujah, 40 miles west of Baghdad, targeted the passing procession for Alaa Zuwaid, a 60-year-old restaurant owner who was part of a Sunni tribe that had formed an alliance with other tribal leaders against al-Qaeda. Police and medical officials said 45 other people were wounded in the bombing.

Zuwaid was killed that morning when militants shot him in front of his house, police said.

In all, 87 people were killed or found dead in sectarian violence across Iraq on Thursday.

Meanwhile, thousands of U.S. and Iraqi troops pressed their search for two missing U.S. soldiers through the fields of southern Iraq in scorching temperatures, and the military said it would not call off the hunt.

The body of a third soldier — 20-year-old Pfc. Joseph Anzack Jr., missing since a May 12 ambush claimed by al-Qaeda — was pulled from the Euphrates River and identified Wednesday. (AP)



MAYA ALLERUZZO/AP

U.S. soldiers continue their search for 2 missing comrades in Iraq Thursday.

Al-Sadr on the Move

➜ Influential Shiite cleric and Iraqi militia leader Moqtada al-Sadr has returned from Iran and is in the southern Iraqi city of Kufa, U.S. officials report. | Today, A Section

IN The Washington Post

RUSSIA | METHANE BLAST AT COAL MINE KILLS 38



RIA-NOVOSTI/AP

DANGER ZONE: Miners walk near the Yubileinaya mine in southern Siberia Thursday. A methane explosion tore through the coal mine, killing at least 38 workers, officials said, in the latest deadly accident to hit Russia's ailing mining industry. The blast also came just over two months after 110 people died in a methane explosion at a mine in the same region.

Israel Arrests 33 Hamas Leaders

NABLUS, WEST BANK | Israel rounded up a Palestinian Cabinet minister and 32 other Hamas leaders in the West Bank before dawn Thursday, trying a new tactic in its campaign to pressure the Islamic militant group into halting rocket barrages from the Gaza Strip.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas condemned the arrests, saying they would hinder his efforts to restore a truce with Israel, and Washington expressed concern about the detentions. Hamas threatened to retaliate with attacks inside the Jewish state.

The arrests reflected an Israeli decision to target the Hamas political leadership — but not necessarily with the lethal airstrikes it has staged over the past week on targets linked to the Hamas military arm. (AP)

Iran Holds Steady on Nuke Plans

Ahmadinejad defiant on Tehran's goals after tough IAEA report

TEHRAN, IRAN | President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad ruled out even a brief halt in Iran's nuclear program, saying Thursday that such a move would hand a victory to the country's enemies who seek to prevent Iran from becoming a world power.

The hard-line leader also lashed out at Israel for continued attacks on Palestinian militant Hamas targets and warned the Jewish state would be "uprooted" if it attacked Lebanon in the coming summer.

Ahmadinejad's outburst followed Wednesday's report by the U.N. nuclear watchdog that said Iran has expanded its uranium enrichment program in defiance of U.N. demands for a suspension. The report could set the stage for a third round of U.N. Security Council sanctions against Iran.

"The enemy wants Iran to surrender so it won't have any say in the world," Ahmadinejad said to a gathering of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards. "If we stop for a while, they [Iran's enemies] will achieve their goals." NASSER KARIMI (AP)



PARTY POLICE: Tajikistan's President Emomalii Rakhmon has called for legislation to limit the size and expense of weddings, birthday parties and funerals, saying the ceremonies have become too lavish for the poor ex-Soviet republic. The measure is his latest attempt to regulate customs and behavior.

In Japan, Dieters Can Phone It In

Snap a photo of your meal, let a nutritionist weigh its health value

TOKYO | Wondering how much of a diet-buster that big bowl of noodles is?

In the U.S., some restaurants could give you a calorie count. In Japan, you might take a picture of it with your cell phone and ask an expert.

With cell phones ubiquitous in Japan and concerns rising over the country's expanding waistlines, health care providers have put two and two together to help the weight-conscious send photos of their meals to nutritionists for analysis.

The concept is only on a test-run for now, and one little drawback is that dieters have to wait three days to find out how much damage they did by eating the meal they just photographed.



SHIZUO KAMBAYASHI/AP

TO EAT OR NOT TO EAT: With concern rising in Japan over bigger waistlines, a new service lets dieters send cell phone photos of their food to nutritionists for analysis.

Public health insurance offices in the Osaka region in western Japan have launched the service on a trial basis. About 100 heart patients signed up in the first year, followed by diabetes and obesity patients in the second.

Nutritionists can work with photos from one day's meals to several weeks' worth, he said. Results come back in three days. Participants also can log onto a Web site to get more dietary information and upload photos from digital cameras.

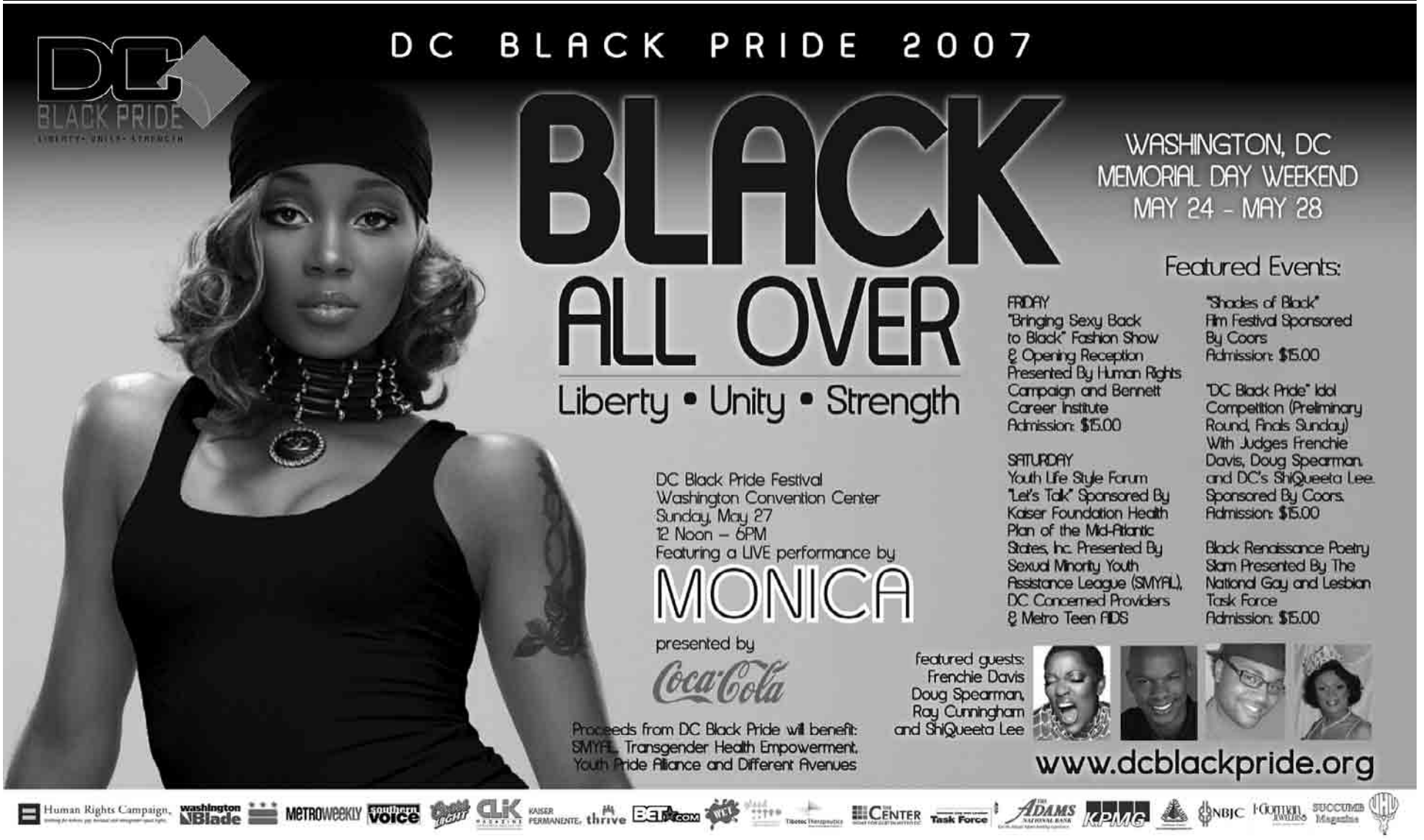
As Japanese have turned to bigger portions and more meat and fried foods, obesity and related illnesses have become more of a concern. CARL FREIRE (AP)

Cuba's Castro Shares Details Of Poor Health

HAVANA | Fidel Castro has gained weight and is getting better, but he grumbled about having to cut his hair and trim his beard for official photos in a personal report on his condition published Thursday in state media.

The 80-year-old leader wrote frankly about just how sick he has been, undergoing several emergency surgeries.

"It wasn't just one operation, but various. Initially it wasn't successful and that had a bearing on my prolonged recuperation," wrote Castro, who has not been seen in public for nearly 10 months. He gave no indication of how long it will take to get back to full health or whether he will resume the presidential duties he handed to his brother Raul. (AP)



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Money

Gas Prices Inch Up Again

Refinery outages hit as summer driving season kicks into gear

NEW YORK | Gasoline prices climbed Thursday after another round of outages at U.S. refineries stoked supply concerns ahead of Memorial Day weekend, the unofficial start of the summer driving season.

Crude oil prices dropped, however, as traders figured that U.S. crude inventories, already abundant, are likely to swell even more if refineries keep paring back operations for maintenance.

Despite a ramp-up in gasoline production last week, America's gasoline inventories remain 6.9 percent below where they were last year, the Energy Department said Wednesday. Additional shutdowns are likely to boost roadside fuel prices further into record territory, analysts said.



HARAZ N. GHANBARI/AP

The average retail price of unleaded, regular gasoline was $3.227 Thursday.

The average U.S. retail price of unleaded, regular gasoline Thursday was at an all-time high of $3.227 a gallon, according to AAA.

Prices would have to surpass $3.29 a gallon to beat the inflation-adjusted peak reached in March 1981, the Energy Department said. With gasoline inventories at low levels not seen in nearly 50 years, according to James Cordier, president of Liberty Trading Group in Tampa, Fla., it seems likely that prices will pass that level.

"We could hit $3.75 this year," Cordier said, noting that there's no telling when U.S. refineries will stop shutting down for maintenance. "There's incentive to maintain what we have, but there's no incentive to make new refineries."

The refinery outages followed the government's Wednesday report that showed a rebound in gasoline inventories and refinery utilization. The news was positive, but not enough to dampen prices.

MADLEN READ (AP)

Home Sales Surge but Prices Drop

WASHINGTON | The beleaguered housing industry is sending mixed signals, with sales of new homes surging in April by the biggest amount in 14 years while prices endured a record plunge.

Analysts said the price drop could provide evidence of home builders' desperation. They are looking to reduce a glut of unsold homes in the face of the worst slump in sales in more than a decade.

The Commerce Department reported on Thursday that sales of new single-family homes jumped by 16.2 percent in April to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 981,000 units.

That was the biggest one-month sales gain since a 16.4 percent surge in April 1993. Even with the increase, however, sales are 10.6 percent below the level of a year ago.

The median price of a new home fell to $229,100, a record 11.1 percent below the March level. (AP)

Real estate live: The Post's Maryann Haggerty takes your questions on the ins and outs of the local housing market | **washingtonpost.com/liveonline at 1 p.m.**

Market Action

New York Stock Exchange

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
BrwnShoe s	32.15	+4.75	+17.3
QtmDSS	2.93	+.20	+7.3
Toro Co	57.95	+3.53	+6.5
CastleAM	36.16	+2.08	+6.1
BauschL lf	70.21	+3.76	+5.7

Losers

NY&Co	12.10	-1.41	-10.4
TrnsRty	16.17	-1.82	-10.1
CTS lf	12.26	-1.24	-9.2
Worthgtn	19.98	-1.84	-8.4
CA Inc	25.57	-2.27	-8.2

NASDAQ Stock Market

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
PacifNet lf	5.32	+1.39	+35.3
SharpImg lf	10.90	+1.42	+15.0
Micromet	2.75	+.30	+12.2
IsoTis n	8.00	+.72	+9.9
Iomai	4.24	+.01	+0.2

Losers

NitroMed	2.62	-.65	-19.9
NetwkAp	31.76	-6.30	-16.6
Komag	23.18	-4.36	-15.8
Chindex	19.23	-3.32	-14.7
SteinMrt	12.70	-2.16	-14.5

Rates

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK
Prime Rate	8.25	8.25
Fed Funds close	5.23	5.23
3-month disc	4.76	4.81
2-year	4.68	4.64
10-year	4.67	4.68
30-year	4.83	4.86

Currency (Dollars in foreign currency)

	TODAY	PREVIOUS DAY	YEAR AGO
British Pound	.5036	.5035	.5343
Canadian Dollar	1.0839	1.0829	1.1199
European Euro	.7445	.7430	.7829
Japanese Yen	121.39	121.65	112.69
Mexican Peso	10.8512	10.7850	11.2997
Taiwanese Dollar	33.37	33.51	32.00

DOW	NASDAQ	S&P 500
-84.52	-39.13	-14.77
-0.62	-1.52	-0.97
13441.13	2537.92	1507.51

Pharmacy Stocks

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	YEAR TO DATE PERCENT CHANGE
AbtLab	56.46	-.75	+15.9
Allergan	123.16	+1.36	+2.9
AstraZen	53.38	-.06	-.3
BarrPhm	54.00	-.21	+7.7
BrMySq	30.03	+.03	+15.3
CephIn	80.77	-.39	+14.7
ForestLab	52.44	-.56	+3.6
Hospira	38.58	-.52	+14.9
JohnJn	63.48	+.09	-3.8
LillyEli	59.19	-.21	+13.6
Merck	53.75	-.60	+23.3
Pfizer	27.28	-.06	+5.3
SchergPl	32.87	-.44	+39.0
Sepracor	48.31	+1.16	-21.5
Wyeth	58.17	-.12	+14.2



FOR PEAT'S SAKE: The Fertilizer Institute announced it is making a $1 million grant to the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History to create an exhibit about soil science that is scheduled to open next year.

Local

Gang Killing Ruling Upheld

Md. Court of Appeals says expert testimony did not prejudice jury

ANNAPOLIS, MD. | A detective's expert testimony about the culture of vengeance among feuding mega-gangs operating in Maryland did not prejudice the jury in a homicide case, Maryland's Court of Special Appeals has ruled.

The decision involved a 2004 murder in Prince George's County that police said was motivated by a long-standing rivalry between members of the Mara Salvatrucha, or MS-13 gang, and the 18th Street gang.

Police said both gangs have tens of thousands of members, largely Latino, in the United States and Central America.

Mario Ayala was convicted in 2004 of the murder of Ashley Antonio Urias, 38, who was beaten to death by a group of men wielding baseball bats and a golf club at the Washington National Cemetery in Suitland. Ayala and his companions belonged to MS-13, police alleged. Urias allegedly belonged to 18th Street.

Although Ayala claimed he acted in self-defense, prosecutors presented evidence that Ayala had been beaten previously by another member of the 18th Street gang and was seeking revenge.

That allegation was bolstered by testimony from Price George's County police Detective Michael Porter, who talked about the value gang members place on sticking up for each other.

"Reputation and respect is everything. The more you are willing to do for the gang, the more respect you have within the gang," Porter testified, according to the court record.

"As a member of MS-13 against an 18th Street member, he could not just sit by and do nothing. For him not to become involved in itself would be a violation where he didn't back up his homeboys, where he didn't step up and represent MS-13 ... he would have been disciplined, beaten."

Ayala was sentenced to life in prison. Ayala's attorneys argued on appeal that Porter's testimony attempted to get into the accused man's state of mind, a perspective the appeals court rejected. (AP)

RICHMOND,VA. | WALL OF HONOR OPENS AT CAPITOL



AP

STATEWIDE SHOULDER: Virginia Attorney General Bob McDonnell, right, comforts Maggie Sticklen, mother of the late-Marine Cpl. Joshua Sticklen, during ceremonies marking the opening of the Wall of Honor, designed as a tribute to Virginians killed in terrorist attacks and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Lotteries

Thursday, May 24

DISTRICT

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	2-6-1
Evening Lucky Numbers (Wed.)	5-0-4
Mid-day DC 4	6-1-7-3
Evening DC 4 (Wed.)	3-8-6-7
Rolling Cash Five (Wed.)	8-18-19-27-34
Daily 6 (Wed.)	13-15-19-20-26-37 Bonus: 30
Hot Lotto (Wed.)	17-20-31-35-37 (15)

MARYLAND

Mid-day Pick 3	2-6-7
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	1-8-9
Mid-day Pick 4	5-0-7-5
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	9-7-6-1
Match 5 (Wed.)	17-25-36-37-38 Bonus: 22
Lotto (Wed.)	11-14-16-19-22-24

VIRGINIA

Mid-day Pick 3 (Thurs.)	0-7-1
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	8-7-2
Mid-day Pick 4 (Thurs.)	0-4-1-8
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	7-8-4-2
Mid-day Cash 5 (Thurs.)	8-12-13-21-33
Evening Cash 5 (Wed.)	1-3-17-26-32
Win for Life (Wed.)	10-14-17-22-24-38

MULTI-STATE GAMES

Powerball (Wed.)	3-11-24-36-38 (6)
Power Play	4X

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a lottery ticket location or a lottery claims office. Drawings that occur after Express's deadline will be published two days later.

21% of Va. Kids 'Age Out' of System

RICHMOND, VA. | Virginia has the highest percentage of children who leave the foster care system without a permanent family, according to a national study released Thursday.

Children who "age out" of the foster care system are abruptly confronted with the challenges of adult life without the type of support system a family can provide, according to the report, "Time for Reform: Aging Out and On Their Own."

The study was funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts and the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative. It found that 21 percent of Virginia's foster children aged out of the system in 2004 — more than 21/2 times the national rate of 8 percent. (AP)





The Washington Post | Sunday Preview



DENNIS DRENNER/FTWP

LADIES FIRST: Jo Ann Richardson of the Baltimore Blues slides into home plate just ahead of the ball in a game against the Virginia Flames at Cannon Stadium.

The Girls of Summer

Free games, cursing, 6 teams and 90 gals equal the EWBC

THUMP. "Steee-rike."

"C'mon," growls Mimi Evenson, stepping back from the plate, knocking the tip of the bat on her cleats.

Bottom of the first on opening day at Joe Cannon Stadium in Hanover. No score. The count is 2-2. Two outs.

Evenson, 39, steps back to the plate. Her two kids, ages 4 and 6, sit in the dugout, crunching on the ice from their plastic McDonald's cups.

Carmen Dominguez uncoils on the pitcher's mound. THUMP.

"Hee-yarr!" bellows the umpire, jerking his arms like he's starting a lawn mower. It's a strikeout. Dominguez trots off the field with the rest of the Virginia Flames.

"[Expletive] pitch — sorry, kids," Evenson says as she returns to the Baltimore Blues' dugout, cleats crunching on the ground, gold nail polish glinting in the sun of an infant summer. "Was low and outside."

Dismayed by the Nationals? No allegiance to the Orioles? Consider the Eastern Women's Baseball Conference. Six local teams to root, root, root for. Overhand fast-pitch. Hardball, not softball. Major League Baseball rules. They play through September, with an invitational tournament this weekend.

Games are free, so come on down. They could use some fans. Or, better yet, players. Join midseason, if you want.

"It's been hard because most people don't know we exist," says JoAnn Milliken, president of the conference, which is 90 women strong and in its 18th year, making it the oldest women's baseball league operating in the country. It's a nonprofit, so there's no money for marketing. Coaches and players say they're perpetually trying to assure people that women play baseball.



Heroines of Hardball

➜ They range in age from teens to 60s, but they all have game. A scorecard of prominent players in the Eastern Women's Baseball Conference. Plus, a guide to where the games are played and how you can join the league.

SUNDAY SOURCE

Yes, baseball. Yes, with a hardball. Yes, with ornate profanity and dirt-smeared jerseys and tampons up noses to staunch the blood after a wild throw. ("Works great," says Blues catcher Jo Ann Kruger, 31. "But that's something you will not see in men's baseball.")

Veteran umpire Roger Loos peels off his mask as the teams exchange places on the field. "They asked me to do one of the playoff games three or four years ago," he says. "I said, 'I never did a women's game before.' And they said, 'Don't worry about it. It's good ball.' And it was fantastic."

And, although organized women's baseball is growing, it's not an opportunity many get at a young age. Girls who express interest in baseball are funneled into softball, says Milliken, 53, and are then reluctant to join the EWBC when they get older. "Some of them say, 'No way, I can't hit something that fast and that small,'" she says. "I always say, 'If I can do it, you can do it.'"

Back to the rivalry. "Curveballs, sliders — I'm not used to those pitches," Blues rookie C.J. Luers, 22, says before she goes up to bat at the bottom of the second. Dominguez winds up, throws and THUMPs Luers in the butt.

"Atta girl!" shouts Bonnie Hoffman, 38, a public defender in Virginia, as Luers, feeling the transition from softball to hardball, trots to first base.

"We call that turning the other cheek," says Jan Strevig, 49, the Blues' manager and a music teacher (her ensemble is in talks to sing the national anthem for the June 15 Orioles game in Baltimore).

Over the course of the next three innings, the Blues tighten the game to 8-7.

Cheers come from two of the six fans in the stands. They are both friends of Dominguez, 44, second baseman as well as a relief pitcher for the Flames. They try to make all the Flames' games, which are played in stadiums and high school fields in the area. They'd rather be here than at Camden Yards or RFK.

"It's smaller, more personal," says Brigida Galleguillos, Dominguez's roommate in Fairfax.

Bottom of the seventh, Blues down by four. CLACK. Jo Ann Kruger doubles, steals third, then takes off for home after Kem Patteson, 33, pops the ball up and Flames catcher Donna Middleton runs off the plate to catch it. Kruger slides into the plate in a cloud of dust. She picks herself up, walks toward the dugout, stops, presses one of her nostrils shut and shoots dust-snot out the other.

"I'm just tired and exhausted," she mutters, having brought the score to 11-8, where it will remain until the Flames end the inning, and the game, with a quick throw to first: THUMP.

The crowd, if there was one, would cheer. DAN ZAK (THE WASHINGTON POST)

ALSO THIS SUNDAY

The Long Vacation

Is it possible for a career-minded person to take a year or so off to devote to travel? Many who have done it say yes. Find out how. | **Travel**

Pop Philanthropists



With schools all over the country cutting arts budgets, music stars like Macy Gray and the Black Eyed Peas are stepping into the breach to fund private arts schools and camps. | **Sunday Arts**

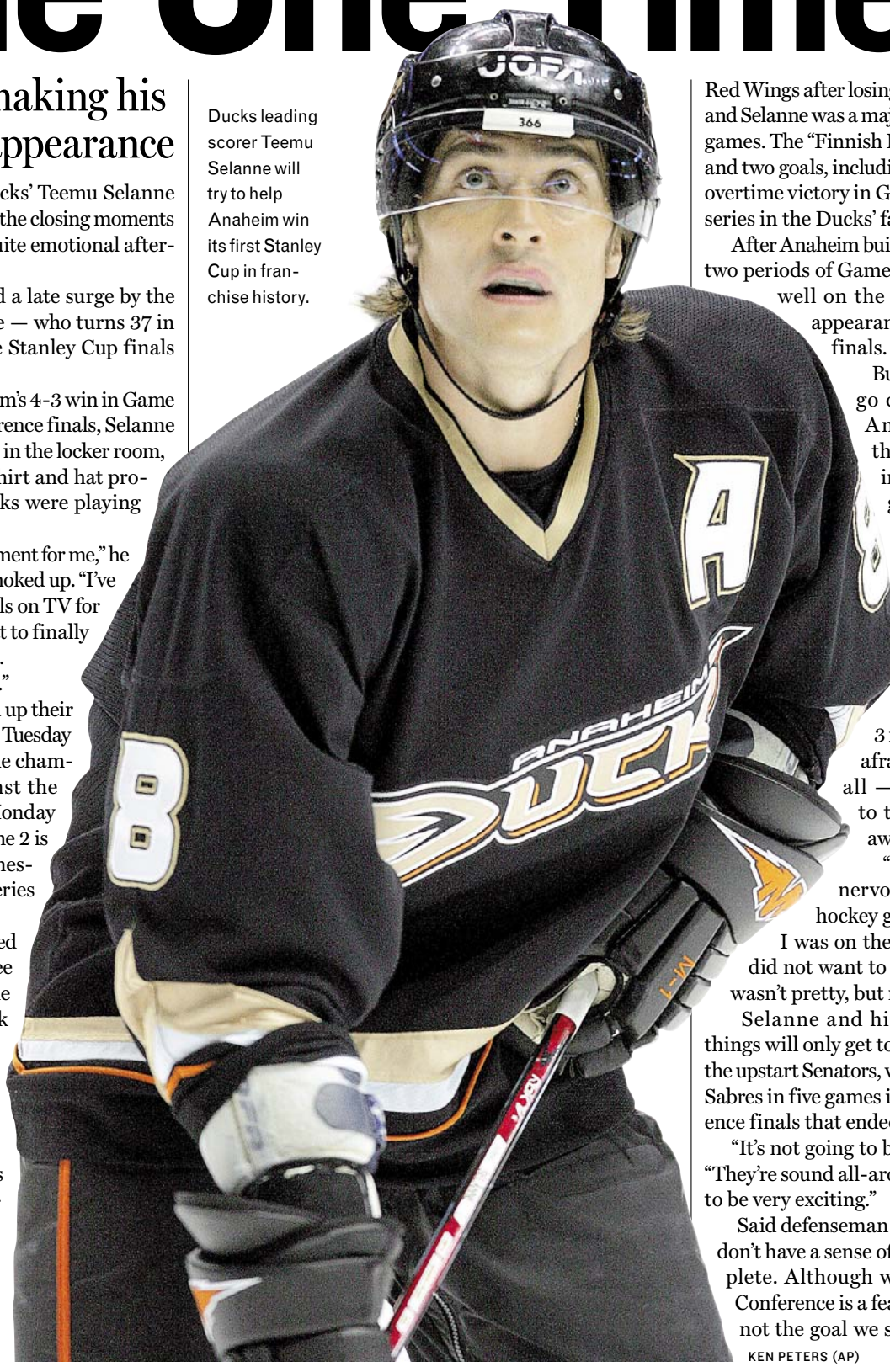


INDY 500
Driver's Seat: Danica Patrick says she has been much more comfortable since switch to Andretti Green Racing team. | 16

Sports Weekend

The One-Timer

Selanne is making his first finals appearance



Ducks leading scorer Teemu Selanne will try to help Anaheim win its first Stanley Cup in franchise history.

STANLEY CUP | The Ducks' Teemu Selanne was quite frightened in the closing moments against Detroit, and quite emotional afterward.

Anaheim withstood a late surge by the Red Wings, so Selanne — who turns 37 in July — will play in the Stanley Cup finals for the first time.

Shortly after Anaheim's 4-3 win in Game 6 of the Western Conference finals, Selanne stood amid the hubbub in the locker room, his freshly minted T-shirt and hat proclaiming that the Ducks were playing for the Stanley Cup.

"This is a special moment for me," he said, smiling but a bit choked up. "I've been watching the finals on TV for so many times, it's great to finally be able to play in them.

"Wow, what a thrill."

The Ducks wrapped up their series against Detroit on Tuesday night and will begin the championship round against the Ottawa Senators on Monday night in Anaheim. Game 2 is on the Ducks' ice Wednesday night before the series shifts to Ottawa.

His career rejuvenated after he underwent knee surgery in 2004 and the Ducks brought him back to Anaheim in August 2005, Selanne was the team's leading scorer with 48 goals and 46 assists during the regular season. It was his most productive season since he had 107 points in 1998-99, during his first stint in Anaheim.

The Ducks won three straight over the Red Wings after losing two of the first three, and Selanne was a major contributor in those games. The "Finnish Flash" had four assists and two goals, including the winner in a 2-1 overtime victory in Game 5 that turned the series in the Ducks' favor.

After Anaheim built a 3-0 lead in the first two periods of Game 6, the Ducks seemed well on the way to their second appearance in the Stanley Cup finals.

But the Red Wings didn't go quietly, outshooting Anaheim 16-3 in the third period and scoring three times against goalie Jean-Sebastien Giguere.

After Pavel Datsyuk scored his second power-play goal with 3:04 remaining to draw the Red Wings to 4-3, those final frantic 3 minutes made Selanne afraid he was watching it all — the series, the trip to the finals — slipping away.

"I have never been so nervous and so shaky in a hockey game in my life — and I was on the bench," he said. "We did not want to go back to Detroit. It wasn't pretty, but now, who cares?"

Selanne and his teammates figure things will only get tougher when they face the upstart Senators, who ousted the favored Sabres in five games in the Eastern Conference finals that ended last Saturday.

"It's not going to be easy," Selanne said. "They're sound all-around. I think it's going to be very exciting."

Said defenseman Sean O'Donnell: "We don't have a sense of anything being complete. Although winning the Western Conference is a feather in our cap, that's not the goal we set in training camp."

KEN PETERS (AP)

TENNIS | **Out of Service** Mardy Fish will miss the French Open after injuring his foot while kicking a football. Fish and his teammates at the World Team Cup visited the Rhein Fire on Wednesday. He apparently sprained ligaments trying to kick a field goal. "I don't know how severe it is," teammate James Blake said. Fish was replaced by doubles specialist Mike Bryan. "We all learn not to do silly things and to be more careful if we are going to do anything like that," Blake said. "But we also have to be human beings and live a life." (AP)

TV Lineup



ERIC GAY/AP

Manu Ginobili and the Spurs are up 2-0 on the Jazz heading back to Utah.

➜ **THEN THERE WERE FOUR:** The Spurs will try to finish off the Jazz on Saturday (8:30 p.m. on ABC) and Monday (9 p.m. on ESPN). King James and the Cavs will host the Pistons on Sunday (8:30 p.m. on TNT) in the first conference finals game in Cleveland since before Michael Jordan's first retirement.

➜ **FIRED UP:** Three dollars from every ticket sold for Saturday's D.C. United vs. Houston Dynamo game (7:30 p.m. on HDNet) will go to a charity for those displaced by the Eastern Market fire last month.



Danny Haren

➜ **STUCK IN THE MIDDLE:** The Orioles host the Oakland A's Friday (7:05 p.m. on MASN), Saturday (7:35 p.m. on MASN2) and Sunday (1:35 p.m. on WJZ/MASN) in the middle of a stretch of 20 games without a day off. The Nationals continue heading west, traveling to St. Louis for games on Friday (8:10 p.m. on MASN), Saturday (7:15 p.m. on MASN) and Sunday (2:15 p.m. on MASN).

➜ **START YOUR ENGINES:** The 91st Indianapolis 500 on Sunday (1 p.m. on ABC) will have three female drivers for the first time in history — Danica Patrick, Sarah Fisher and Milka Duno.

➜ **BEGINNING OF THE END:** Danny Alfredsson and the Senators face the Ducks in the first game of the Stanley Cup finals on Monday (8 p.m.)

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MATT SLOCUM/AP

Tim Duncan has put up more than 20 points and 10 rebounds in his last 11 games.

Duncan Stands Tall in Playoffs

Spurs star consistently rises to the occasion throughout postseason

NBA PLAYOFFS | When Tim Duncan jumped to catch a lob pass, then realized the ball wasn't going to make it to him, he knew right away that he was in trouble.

Duncan does a lot of things well, but an acrobatic, midair adjustment isn't usually among them.

Yet this time, in Game 2 of the Western Conference finals, Duncan pulled it off. He reached out his long arms to make the catch, then flicked the ball backward over his head and into the basket, all in one move.

"I was impressed with myself, honestly," Duncan said Thursday.

The way things have gone for Duncan this postseason, the play shouldn't have been too surprising. Everything seems to be easy for him — or, at least, he's sure able to make it look that way.

No longer bothered by the foot problem that limited him in recent years, and a bit refreshed by San Antonio's early exit last postseason, Duncan is having one of his best playoff runs.

While he's right around his career playoff averages in points and rebounds, the spectacular part is his consistency: at least 20 points and 10 rebounds in 11 straight games. It's the longest streak since Shaquille O'Neal had 13 in a row in 2004, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

San Antonio is 9-2 during Duncan's streak and holds a 2-0 lead over the Utah Jazz in the conference finals, with Game 3 in Salt Lake City on Saturday night. If the Spurs advance, they'll be on the brink of their fourth title in Duncan's 10 years.

Already considered among the best big men ever, Duncan still stands out among the handful of others in that group. He's as good a defender as he is a scorer, and he's an even better teammate, always preferring to be one of the guys rather than the main man.

"He's the kind of guy that you would really want a lot of players to be like," Spurs forward Bruce Bowen said. "He's strictly business about getting the job done." (AP)

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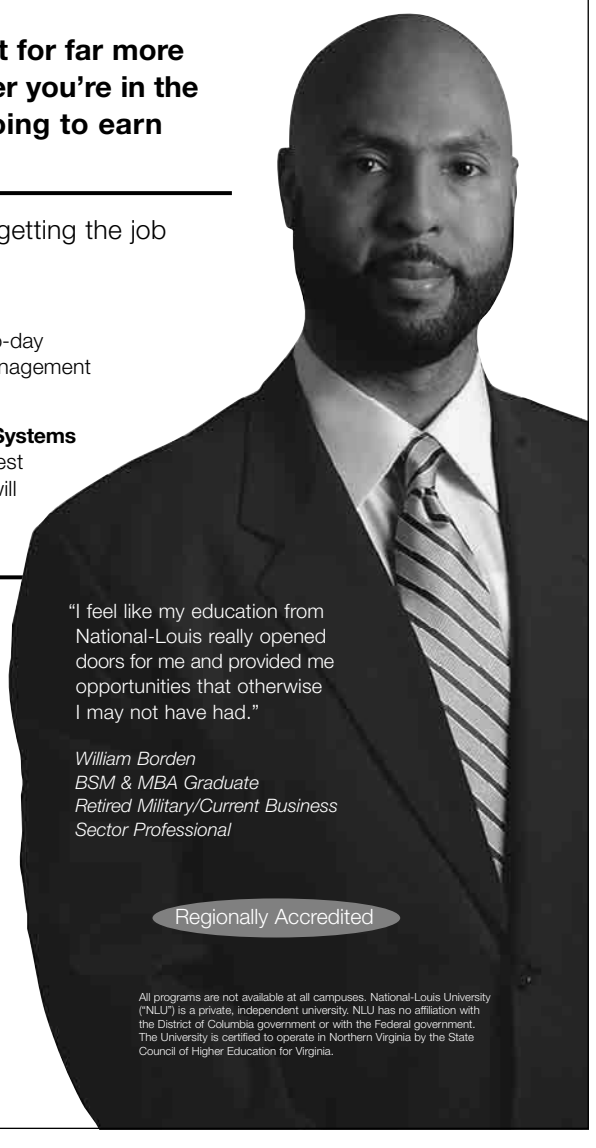
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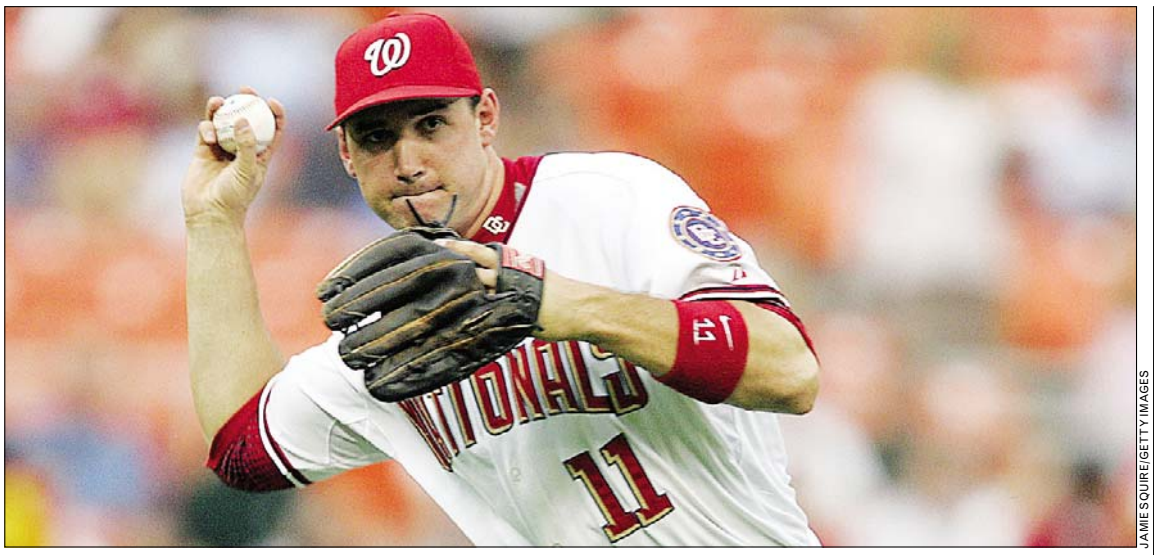


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JAMIE SQUIRE/GETTY IMAGES

HOT CORNER INFIELDER: Third baseman Ryan Zimmerman provides the lumber for the Nationals, hitting third in a weak lineup.

Youth Movement

Local MLB clubs stick with their young stars and expect big results

BASEBALL | It starts with a murmur.

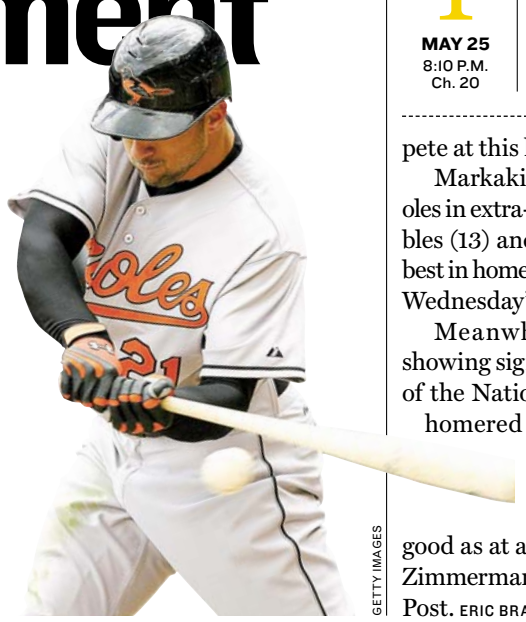
Nick Markakis, standing in the corner of the Orioles' locker room explaining his maturation process in the big leagues, doesn't seem like a guy tabbed for stardom. His voice is soft, and at one point he swings his right leg over the left as though he'd be more comfortable talking about anything else.

He turns up the volume on the field.

Markakis — the seventh overall selection in the 2003 draft — is in his second season as a starter for the Orioles. Much like Nationals third baseman Ryan Zimmerman, Markakis has a lot of in-town fans, but he is still outside the notice of the casual fan.

Both players are 6-foot-2, hit at the top of the lineup and carry their team's futures on their shoulders. But while Zimmerman is the marquee player in a struggling lineup, Markakis has a lot of support.

"Being a high pick, everybody expects so much," he said. "The way I look at it, I didn't think I was any different than anybody out there."



GETTY IMAGES

A notoriously slow starter, the right fielder got hot midway through his rookie year in 2006, hitting over .330 between June and August to finish at .291 with 16 home runs and 62 RBIs.

"They had confidence in me and put me out there when I was struggling. I think that was a big part," Markakis said. "Once you get up here, it's kind of like you start over again. Everything you did in the past means something ... but you've got to prove you can compete at this level."

Markakis was leading the Orioles in extra-base hits (19) and doubles (13) and was tied for a team-best in home runs with five through Wednesday's action.

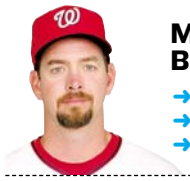
Meanwhile, Zimmerman is showing signs of life in the middle of the Nationals' order — he had homered five times in his last 12 games through Wednesday.

"I really do feel as good as at any time in my career," Zimmerman told The Washington Post. ERIC BRANDNER

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PITCHING MATCHUPS



Micah Bowie

- Throws: Left
- Fastball: Low 90s
- Best Pitch: Fastball

YEAR	IP	ERA	W	L	H	ER	BB	SO
'07 NL	20.1	3.98	0	2	20	9	5	16
'06 NL	19.2	1.37	0	1	11	3	7	11



Anthony Reyes

- Throws: Right
- Fastball: Mid 90s
- Best Pitch: Fastball

YEAR	IP	ERA	W	L	H	ER	BB	SO
'07 NL	44.2	5.84	0	7	42	29	13	35
'06 NL	85.1	5.06	5	8	84	48	34	72

GAME 1 Nearly two months into the season, both pitchers are still searching for their first wins of 2007, which is more of a surprise for Reyes than Bowie. Bowie will be taking the mound for just his second start since 1999 on Friday.

GAME 2



Levale Speigner vs. Brad Thompson

GAME 3



Matt Chico vs. Adam Wainwright

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Rolling With A New Crew

Danica Patrick says she's a better fit on the Andretti Green team

INDY 500 | After two years of feeling isolated and closed off from her teammates, Danica Patrick says, she's now part of a team with a fun-loving group of drivers who have made her more comfortable and confident.

"For the first time, I'm having fun with my teammates," said Patrick, who joined Andretti Green Racing this season after spending the past two years with Rahal Letterman Racing.

"Whether I'm in my bus just hanging out and I see them outside and go hang out and talk, or we're in engineering just chitchatting, there's no uncomfortable place," she added.

A lot of that has to do with the chemistry at AGR, where Tony Kanaan, Dario Franchitti, Marco Andretti and team co-owner Michael Andretti, Marco's father, all will compete along with Patrick in Sunday's Indianapolis 500.

Kanaan is the clown of the group, always full of pranks and jokes. Franchitti is the older brother, taking care of everyone. Marco is the kid brother and Michael, the veteran racing star and the boss, is a role model for the others.

"She's becoming more a part of the team every day," Franchitti said. "When we hang out, she's one of the guys."

Scott Roembke, general manager and chief operating officer for Rahal Letterman, said it was no secret Patrick didn't get along with her former teammates, 2004 Indy winner Buddy Rice in particular.

"As a team, it's our job to foster a productive driver-teammate relationship, and we weren't able to do that," Roembke said. "I take the blame. But it was just a matter of different personalities."



AJ MAST/AP

Danica Patrick is on the same wavelength as her teammates as a new member of Andretti Green Racing, a change from her two years with Rahal Letterman Racing.

Patrick's current teammates, including 20-year-old Marco Andretti, already have won in the IndyCar Series, and they expect her to become a member of that exclusive club soon. Could that first win come at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, where she finished fourth as a rookie two years ago to ignite Danica-Mania?

"Why not? I like Indy a lot. I feel very confident here," she said. "It's a good feeling knowing there are [teammates] who I can count on. And they know they can count on me." MIKE HARRIS (AP)

THE FEMININE MYSTIQUE

For the first time in the 91-year history of the Indianapolis 500, the field will sport three female drivers. Here's a look at the field:

- The headliner — Danica Patrick is still looking for her first win in the IndyCar series.
- The old hand — Sarah Fisher will make her sixth appearance in the race on Sunday.
- The rookie — Milka Duno is the first Venezuelan to race at Indy.

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Looking to Step Up

Players hope to make the leap to PGA from the Nationwide Tour

GOLF | When Jeremy Anderson leaves a golf tournament, he goes from person to person thanking the staff. Then he tells them that he hopes not to see them next year.

Like the overwhelming majority of players on the Nationwide Tour, Anderson sees this as a stop on the way to the PGA Tour, but with the growing popularity of the sport, the Nationwide just gets more competitive every year.

"A lot of these guys have the game for the PGA Tour, but we just don't have the room for all of them," Nationwide tour president Bill Calfee told The Washington Post. "Our role is to fill that gap."

Anderson graduated from UNLV in 2000 and immediately joined the PGA Tour. But bulging disks in his neck forced him to rehab for six months without touching a golf club. He thought about giving up.

"In the summer of 2003, I had no status left and not much clue on how to play golf," Anderson said. "The hardest part for me was mentally believing I was physically OK."

Since then, he's been working his way back. At Q School in 2004, he nearly qualified for the PGA Tour, falling just a couple shots short. But that was enough to get him onto the Nationwide Tour, where he's made about $60,000 dollars in each of the last two years.

"This tour, it's not really about making cuts," as the money is not enough, said Anderson, who finished 5-over on Thursday. "You need to have those high finishes. ... There are definitely weeks where you can make a cut and walk away breaking even after all your expenses."

Many playing this weekend at the Melwood Prince George's County Open have similar stories to Anderson's. Some are young players just starting out; others have won multiple PGA Tour events and are trying to keep their game sharp for when they join the Champions Tour. Many have worked other jobs at some point in their lives.

But nearly all of them are vying for a spot in the coveted top 25 at the end of the year, which would give them a shot at the PGA Tour next year.

That would mean they wouldn't be back next year at Woodmore. But that wouldn't bother Anderson.

IAN HERBERT (EXPRESS)

PRINCE GEORGE'S CO. OPEN
The Nationwide Tour brings golf to the D.C. area for the weekend:

- The tourney started Thursday and will run through Sunday.
- Admission is $10 Friday, $15 for Saturday and Sunday or $30 for a weekly pass.
- The Country Club at Woodmore in Mitchellville, Md., is hosting the tournament.

Goals Just Keep Coming

Greer's 63 scores have led Duke back to the top of college lacrosse

COLLEGE LACROSSE | Zack Greer already had set a national record for goals by a freshman and was leading the Duke lacrosse team again when the infamous rape scandal derailed the team last season.

Yet amid all the chaos, Greer clung to the charge he felt running onto the field in front of thousands of fans at the 2005 Final Four.

That memory has stayed with him ever since, through his decision to remain at Duke despite the program's uncertain future instead of becoming a sought-after transfer.

"It's crazy," Greer said. "Sometimes, it's even hard to think about because so much has happened in the past year and a half."

Heading into Saturday's semifinal game against Cornell, Greer leads the country with 63 goals for the Blue Devils (16-2). That total broke his own school and Atlantic Coast Conference season record of 57 goals set as a freshman in '05.

He hoped to get back to the Final Four as a Blue Devil, even as the university suspended the team from play and accepted the resignation of longtime coach Mike Pressler last spring amid the rape allegations. He talked with Syracuse and Cornell about transferring if Duke didn't reinstate its program.

"When I found out there was going to be a program here, those memories definitely came back," he said. "You're like, 'We can do it again.'" AARON BEARD (AP)



KARL B. DEBLAKER/AP

POINT OF ATTACK: Zack Greer has spurred Duke to its second Final Four appearance in three years. Greer's 63 goals have helped the team win 16 games this year.

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DOUG PENSINGER/GETTY IMAGES

HOLDING PATTERN: Midfielder Brian Carroll simplified his game to help United.

Defense Gives D.C. a Boost

Perkins and Carroll pick up slack as offense struggles to score goals

UNITED | With two wins and one draw in the past three games — including its first consecutive league victories since last July — D.C. United appears to be emerging from its early-season coma.

The hustle and heart demanded by coach Tom Soehn is back, and the reorganized defense seems to have rediscovered its composure. But the attack remains drowsy. Just one of D.C.'s past five goals has come from the run of play.

"It's that final pass, that final touch that we're missing," goalkeeper Troy Perkins said following last weekend's win in Toronto, during which United (2-3-1) outplayed the host but required an own goal and a penalty kick to make it count. "And that's going to come."

Until it does, it's the improved play of Perkins, the defense and holding midfielder Brian Carroll that will anchor D.C.'s effort to reestablish itself as the team to beat, starting with defending champ Houston (2-4-1) on Saturday at RFK Stadium.

As a group and individually they received significant criticism during the slow start, from Perkins' Champions Cup gaffe to defenders' marking lapses to Carroll's turnovers. While fans and media seem to have faith that the stylish Christian Gomez and Luciano Emilio will find their form, many were quick to question whether Perkins, Carroll and the rest should start.

Soehn said that "every player goes through stretches" and that dealing with each individually and honestly was the key. Perkins said he needed to play through his "emotional letdown," while Carroll benefited from a rare seat on the bench. Missing the first half of the May 3 tie with New England helped the Springfield product "see from the outside what I needed to be doing."

"I was trying to go forward and create something every time, too much and too fast," Carroll said. "Now I've just settled down and am just playing with what's there. Just keep the ball and keep it simple."

Each was outstanding in the Toronto game, and both will be invaluable in keeping the team together while it finds its attacking groove.

"We believe in ourselves a little more, and we've put the rest behind us," Perkins said. BRIAN STRAUS

Swengali

HOYAS HOOPS | BY MATT SWENSON

Hibbert Is Right To Stay a Hoya

ROY HIBBERT ISN'T ready for the NBA, and he knows that.

The only surprising thing is that the Georgetown Hoyas' 7-foot-2 center listened to his heart rather than grabbing the quick buck.

A player of Hibbert's size and stature almost never stays through his senior season in college. Tim Duncan — who is now seeking a fourth pro championship in his 10th NBA season — was thought to be the last of his kind.

Even while battling foul trouble, Hibbert was the best center in the NCAA tourney — even superior to Portland's future pick, Greg Oden.

With another year under his belt, Hibbert should complete his transformation from a bumbling freshman to an NBA-ready center.

With another year under his belt, Hibbert should complete his transformation.

His return also ensures that Georgetown, armed with a great recruiting class to soften the blow of Jeff Green's loss, will contend for a return trip to the Final Four.

For now, though, let's keep the focus on Hibbert.

It would have been all too easy to jump to the pros. Due to his sheer size, the center would have likely been a top-10 pick in next month's draft.

Then he would sit on the bench, "learning" while watching.

Hibbert showed true commitment to his game by staying in school. You only improve by playing, and at Georgetown, he'll be playing at a high level.

The NBA's money will be there next year. Hibbert's skills will be sharp enough by then.

To reach Matt Swenson, e-mail matt.swenson@readexpress.com

Mystics Trade Melvin After Defeat

Washington gets Duke forward Currie after 3rd loss of the season

MYSTICS | The Washington Mystics traded center Chastity Melvin to the Chicago Sky on Thursday for forward Monique Currie hours after losing to the New York Liberty to start the season 0-3.

Erin Thorn and Shameka Christon scored 17 points apiece in the early game, and Cathrine Kraayeveld added 16 to lead the Liberty to an 81-76 victory over the Mystics on Thursday. New York scored the final six points — all from the free-throw line — to improve to 2-0 for the first time since 1999.

"We couldn't ask for a better start. We can grow as a team and build on these two wins," Christon said. "We have a lot of new players again, but we still have a strong core of five that played together since last year."

Alana Beard scored 23 points and DeLisha Milton-Jones had 14 points and eight rebounds for Washington. The Mystics opened the season with three losses for the first time since their inaugural 1998 season.



SETH WENIG/AP

Chastity Melvin, left, commits an offensive foul during a loss to New York. She scored 10 points and grabbed seven rebounds, and then was traded Thursday afternoon.

"We're not where we should be at the end of the game," Mystics coach Richie Adubato said. "They're better, they're big and they shoot the ball very well. ... They have a nice inside high-low game and they beat us on our own play a couple of times."

Currie was the first overall pick in this year's dispersal draft after the Charlotte Sting disbanded. She averaged 14.5 points, 6.5 rebounds and 1.5 assists in Chicago's first two games. She went to high school in Washington and played at Duke with Mystics guard Alana Beard.

Melvin, who converted a putback to give the Mystics a 76-75 lead with 1:43 to go before they went scoreless the rest of the way, has averaged 10.7 points since joining the Mystics in 2004. She averaged 12 points and 6.5 rebounds in three games this year.

"It was difficult to trade a veteran player," Mystics general manager Linda Hargrove said. "But we feel that Nakia Sanford and our young post players will benefit from the opportunity to compete." (AP)

Oracle Skipper Resigns After Early Cup Exit

SAILING | Chief executive and skipper Chris Dickson resigned from BMW Oracle Racing Thursday, four days after the sole American entry made an early exit from the America's Cup.

Dickson was at the helm for all but one of BMW Oracle Racing's Louis Vuitton Cup semifinals match races against Luna Rossa of Italy, which the Italians won 5-1.

The San Francisco-based syndicate flopped after coming into the 32nd America's Cup with the event's highest budget of nearly $270 million. It eased through the round-robin stages to a second-place finish.

"After four years of intense effort ... I have decided to step down," Dickson said in a statement. "I have decided that leaving now will allow both me and the team to move on and make plans for the future." (AP)

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NIGHTLIFE AGENDA

Soul-Stirring: Singer Marsha Ambrosius headlines at the Liv Nightclub. Plus, Grupo Niche and the Strange Fruit Project. | 24

Entertainment Weekend



STEPHEN VAUGHAN/DISNEY/AP

FULL BLOOM: Audiences can stare at Orlando Bloom for three hours in "At World's End."

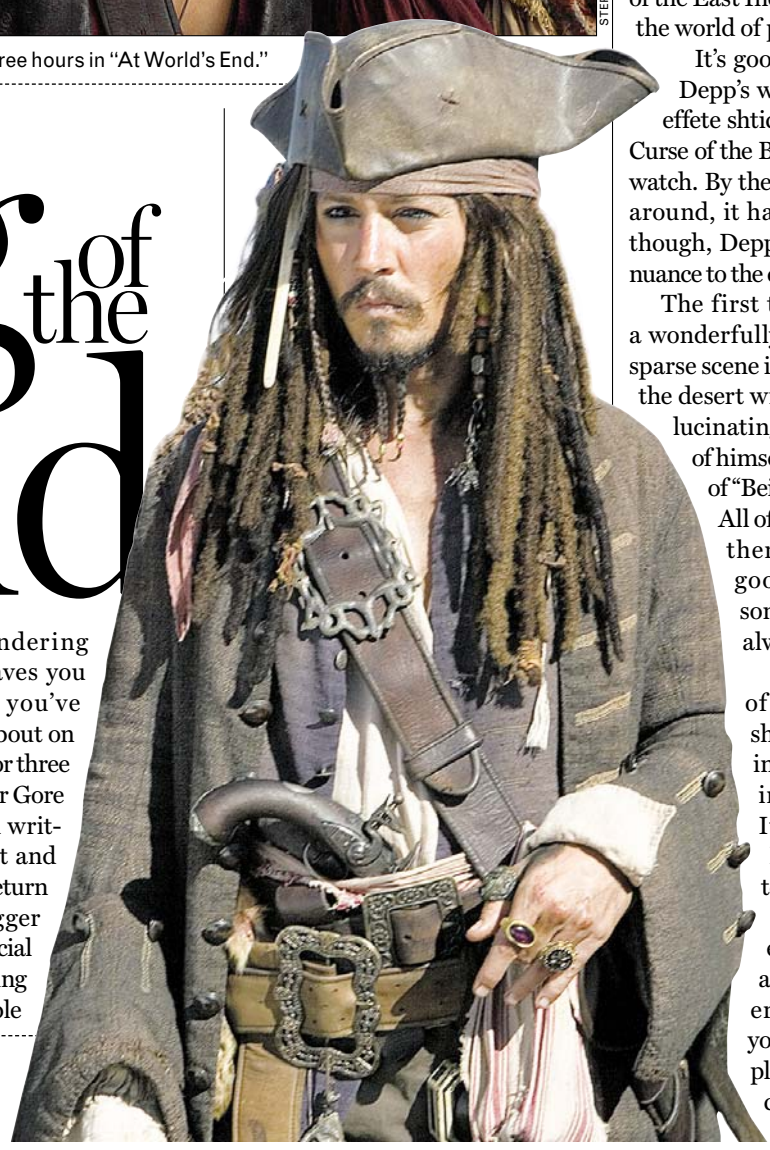
King of the World

The third 'Pirates' is a delightful mess of a summer blockbuster

FILM | It's way too long and massively convoluted and ultimately just plain silly. But, still, "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End" is a lot of fun a lot of the time.

The third movie in the freakishly successful "Pirates" franchise feels substantial and looks impressive and fulfills the hype surrounding it in a way the other thirds — "Spider-Man" and "Shrek" — haven't so far.

Having said that, it is, of course, a giant meandering mess that leaves you feeling as if you've been tossed about on the high seas for three hours. Director Gore Verbinski and writers Ted Elliott and Terry Rossio return with even bigger helpings of special effects, including an interminable climax in which the Black Pearl and the Flying Dutchman battle each other in the driving rain while circling along the edge of a swirling, sucking maelstrom.



Depp brings nuance to Capt. Jack — savvy?

And yet, within such sequences, there are enough individual "wow" moments that make you appreciate what an achievement this was.

As for the plot — not that it matters — this one's more confusing than ever. Will Turner (Orlando Bloom), Elizabeth Swann (Keira Knightley) and Captain Barbossa (Geoffrey Rush) must rescue Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp) from the purgatory of Davy Jones' Locker, where he wound up last year at the end of "Dead Man's Chest." They also must round up the Nine Lords of the Brethren Court, sort of a U.N. of unsavory behavior, in the hopes that their combined power can stop the Machiavellian Lord Cutler Beckett (Tom Hollander), head of the East India Co., from ridding the world of pirates.

It's good to see Jack again. Depp's wildly unpredictable, effete shtick made 2003's "The Curse of the Black Pearl" a thrill to watch. By the time part two came around, it had gotten old. Here, though, Depp gets to bring some nuance to the character.

The first time he appears, in a wonderfully surreal, strikingly sparse scene in which he's stuck in the desert with his ship, he's hallucinating dozens of versions of himself, like a moment out of "Being John Malkovich." All of Depp's range is right there on display: He's goofy, proud, brazen, sometimes fearful, but always riveting.

Later, tiny versions of Jack stand on his shoulders, whispering in his ears and goading him into action. It's straight out of Bugs Bunny cartoons. But then again, there are also references to Shakespeare and spaghetti Westerns — just to show you how all-over-the-place "At World's End" can be. CHRISTY LEMIRE (AP)

Got Plans?

FOR COMPLETE WEEKEND LISTINGS SEE WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT

Could you recommend a good place for a 21st-birthday celebration? I prefer girly cocktails.

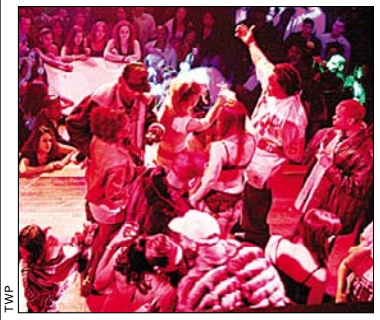
My top choices to start the night would probably be clubby places like Cafe Citron and Play. Both can get crowded on the weekends, but if you start early enough you shouldn't have a problem. The simpler cocktails are in the $7 to $9 range.

For a cheaper option, and one your guy friends might appreciate more, try Local 16.

➜ *Cafe Citron, 1343 Connecticut Ave.; 202-530-8844. (Dupont Circle)*

➜ *Play, 1219 Connecticut Ave.; 202-466-7529. (Farragut North)*

➜ *Local 16, 1604 U St. NW; 202-265-2828. (U Street/Cardozo)*



TWP

STEP OUT Cafe Citron is a hot spot for great cocktails and steady grooves.

Since the weather has warmed up, I've been craving a Dark and Stormy. You know, that delicious Bermudan drink made of dark rum and ginger beer. Where do I find a good one in the District?

The Dark and Stormy is one of my favorite cocktails ever. I still think the Islander makes one of the best in town. Ceiba's is solid, and I have fond memories of Palette's.

➜ *Islander Caribbean Restaurant, 1201 U St. NW; 202-234-4955. (U Street)*

➜ *Ceiba, 701 14th St. NW; 202-393-3983. (Metro Center)*

➜ *Palette's, 1177 15th St. NW; 202-587-2700. (McPherson Square)*

The Going Out Gurus think you should get out more. Join the discussion Thursdays at 1 p.m. | **washingtonpost.com/liveonline**

Simple. Brilliant

By dropping flashy numbers, 'Once' gives new life to musicals

FILM | Forget everything you think you know about the movie musical, one of the more tried-and-true and utterly predictable genres around. With "Once," writer-director John Carney deconstructs it and reinvents it as something wholly new, inspired and alive.

He also breathes fresh life into the idea of screen romance with the unexpected relationship he depicts between an Irish street performer (the riveting Glen Hansard, lead singer of the Frames) and a young Czech immigrant (Marketa Irglova, who's strikingly talented). Carney follows them over the course of a week through working-class Dublin, with intimate, verite camerawork, as they meet, get to know each other and share a love of music.

Charmingly awkward in their initial small talk, they discover they bond seamlessly when they start collaborating on his album — him on the guitar, her on the piano, their harmonies soaring and sending a chill down your spine.



FOX SEARCHLIGHT

An Irish street performer and Czech immigrant strike a chord on Dublin's streets.

No one ever bursts into song in "Once" — the tunes just evolve naturally, making you feel as if you're a part of the process, leaving you emotionally invested in these characters and not just wowed by their performances. He tinkers with a melody or finds he's stuck writing lyrics and asks her to help; she listens to what he's come up with and provides some suggestions. And voila — a song is born. (OK, so maybe they fit together a bit too perfectly on their first try, but they sound so phenomenal, you may as well surrender.)

In the most clever example of this tactic, he's lent her a CD player to listen to one of his half-finished songs. She walks to a convenience store near her cramped apartment to buy some new batteries, pulls on a set of headphones and comes up with the words on the way home, her voice piercing the darkness and the nighttime traffic.

This small film is a huge surprise — brilliant simply because it doesn't try so hard to be brilliant — and it's one of the year's best. CHRISTY LEMIRE (AP)



FRANK MICELOTTA/FOX VIA GETTY IMAGES

Fewer viewers tuned in this year to see Jordin Sparks win "American Idol."

Ratings Drop for Final 'Idol'

LOS ANGELES | An estimated 29.5 million Americans tuned in for the season's final "American Idol" with Jordin Sparks winning the prize — a sharp drop from last year's finale, according to preliminary ratings from Nielsen Media Research.

Last year, 36.4 million people watched Taylor Hicks win. And even though Hicks was featured singing during Wednesday's two hour-plus episode, that represents a 19 percent decrease.

Sparks grew up on "American Idol," watching the show since she was 12 years old and telling her mother it was what she wanted to do.

"Now I'm actually doing it," the 17-year-old told reporters backstage after winning the competition. The Arizona teenager bested Blake Lewis, 25, the beat-boxer from Washington state at the Kodak Theatre.

"I've just been trying to top myself each week," Sparks told The Associated Press. "I would sing my song and after I was done I was like, 'OK, what am I going to do next week that's going to be ... either just as good or better?"

SANDY COHEN (AP)

All You Need Is Love in Paris

Big stars, directors find a connection in a collection of 18 shorts

FILM | Bring together some of cinema's most eclectic, acclaimed directors (Alexander Payne, Alfonso Cuaron, the Coen brothers) and toss in some of the most intriguing actors working today (Steve Buscemi, Catalina Sandino Moreno, Maggie Gyllenhaal) for a series of shorts celebrating the spirit of Paris and you could either end up with an inspiring mix or a rambling mess.

Thankfully, "Paris, Je T'aime" tends more toward the former than the latter.

As with any collection such as this, the results can be hit or miss; some shorts tell a complete story and leave you feeling wowed, charmed or moved, while others barely register. With 18 pieces in all, there should be something here to tantalize everyone's tastes, or at least prompt you to contact your travel agent to book a vacation.



FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

Li Xin and Barbet Schroeder star in one of the 18 segments of "Paris, Je T'aime."

Probably the funniest segment, "Tuileries," comes from Joel and Ethan Coen and stars one of their favorite players, Buscemi, as an American tourist who breaks one of his guidebook's cardinal rules while waiting on the Metro platform ("Eye contact should be avoided!"). Just the extreme close-ups of his expressive mug are good for a laugh, but then the situation becomes hilarious as it steadily grows more violent.

Gus Van Sant's contribution, "Le Marais," is extremely Gus Van Sant, for better and for worse. Two men have a cosmic meeting at a printer's shop — well, at least one of them thinks it's cosmic — and for a long time it feels like nothing's happening, but if you stick with it, there's a payoff.

"Paris, Je T'aime" ends on an unexpectedly wistful note with Payne's "14eme Arrondissement." Margo Martindale, a middle-aged American postal worker, wanders around the city alone, detailing in a voiceover what she did during her vacation in awkward, self-taught French. It's not sexy or stylish or glamorous. But of all the segments that comprise the film, it comes the closest to depicting honestly what it feels like to fall in love.

CHRISTY LEMIRE (AP)



FRANCOIS MORI/AP

Javier Bardem may win best actor at Cannes for his performance in "No Country."

Predicting The Palme

4 films emerge as favorites to take the top prize at Cannes

CANNES DO | The bookmaking on the winners at this year's Cannes Film Festival is heating up; everyone has an opinion. Actually, everyone has almost the same opinion.

Votes for the Palme d'Or have been pretty much tied between Romanian director Cristian Mungiu's "4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days" and the Coen brothers' modern Western "No Country for Old Men."

That was before American artist Julian Schnabel queered the deal with his painterly, unsentimental "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly." It's an adaptation of the book by former French Elle editor Jean-Dominique Bauby, who suffered a massive stroke and was left completely lucid but physically frozen — he dictated the memoir by blinking his left eyelid, and this process is presented as both poetic and tedious. But there are still votes for the likes of "Zodiac," Robert Graysmith's account of never-solved Bay Area serial killings.

These four films will battle it out for the big prize and the incongruously named Grand Prix, which is actually second place.

Javier Bardem is the name being bandied about for best actor for his performance as a gravel-voiced psychotic killer in "No Country," and American audiences will love this soon-to-be iconic portrayal of death on legs. But my bet is on French star Mathieu Almaric for "The Diving Bell." Ten bucks — don't forget! I'll expect payment.

For best actress, Jeon Do-yeon is so fearless, so emotionally naked, so raw and complicated as the widow in Lee Chang-dong's "Secret Sunshine," there isn't a performance to match it in the festival.

To read more "Cannes Do" dispatches, visit **readexpress.com**

There is also a Jury Prize, occasionally trumped up to reward random films that did not screen in competition. Bela Tarr is a choice bet to take this for his mesmerizing "The Man From London," an adaptation of a Georges Simenon thriller that's all drama and no thrills. It's beautiful beyond imagining, stylized, strange and slow — the kind of oddball entry one comes to Cannes to see. ARION BERGER (EXPRESS)





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Nightlife Agenda

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO TONIGHT? BY FRITZ HAHN, RHOME ANDERSON AND DAVID MALITZ

FRIDAY

Not every Latin dance event has DJs or bands playing a wide variety of music, so we're happy to see **COCOCABANA** stepping up and offering four artists performing different styles. Headlining is Colombian salsa group Grupo Niche, which shows no signs of slowing down after a quarter-century of performing classics like "Una Aventura" and "Gotas de Lluvia" across the hemisphere. That would be reason enough to drive out to Hyattsville, but you also get the relentless horn-filled songs of Dominican merengue singer Tulile, bachata favorites Grupo Xtreme and Latin hip-hop and bachata from Toby Love.

Friday is the kickoff of D.C. Black Pride, an annual weekend of events and activities for the city's African-American gay and lesbian community, and it draws visitors from up and down the East Coast. Check dcblackpride.org for a full listing of events. Opening night's highlight is undoubtedly a performance by singer Marsha Ambrosius of the much-heralded neo-soul group Floetry at Liv, where she'll be alongside DJ India's mix of hip-hop, reggae and R&B. Admission is $20 before 11 p.m.

SATURDAY

If you've long checked out of the hip-hop mainstream but find its indie counter-scene too crowded to sort through, you'll be able to sample a varied selection at the **BLACK CAT**. The Strange Fruit Project is a Texas trio who share the drawl of their popular Southern peers but replace the grillz and snap music with everyman themes and Soul-quarian-styled tracks. The Lifesavas rose to the top of the Pacific Northwest scene before relocating to northern California. D.C. is represented by Head-Roc, a raw lyricist whose strident political material is tempered with charisma.

Summer temperatures have us longing to break out the white suits and pastel shirts, so how convenient is it that Saturday features a "Miami Vice"-themed party at **BOHEMIAN CAVERNS**? Guys are instructed to "dressed like Crockett or Tubbs" — we think that means Don Johnson and Phillip Michael Thomas, not the guys in that travesty of a film. Episodes of the TV show will be playing on the two-level club's flatscreens, and fruity cocktails are discounted all night.

An extended version of "Nightlife Agenda" is always available at **www.washingtonpost.com/cityguide**

Now Playing

ARE WE DONE YET? (PG, 87 minutes) Following up on his execrable 2005 semi-hit "Are We There Yet?," Ice Cube once again turns the world off with a scowl in this remake of the classic 1948 Cary Grant comedy "Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House." Cube's Nick Persons, having survived a cross-country road trip with his girlfriend, Suzanne (Nia Long), and her two brats (Aleisha Allen and Philip Bolden), has married Suzanne. She announces she's pregnant — with twins. Nick decides to move his burgeoning family to a huge money pit outside Portland, Ore. What, you've seen "The Money Pit"? And "Mr. Blandings"? Then you've seen this movie, whose only additions are a talking raccoon, a manic real-estate-agent-slash-contractor and a subplot involving sturgeon. (AH)

AFTER THE WEDDING (R, 120 minutes) This Danish film, nominated for a Best Foreign Language Film Oscar earlier this year, cuts to the core of who we are, who we belong to and where we come from. It is finely textured drama, thanks to the performers, who make their characters so persuasive and 3-D we're too mesmerized to care about the story's more overwrought or histrionic passages. (DT)

AMERICANIZING SHELLEY (PG, 90 minutes) You have to hand it to Namrata Singh Gujral: As a young, obscure actress of Indian, Tibetan, Latin and Egyptian descent trying to get noticed in Hollywood, she has taken control of her destiny by writing her very own star vehicle. Unfortunately, what this movie displays in gumption is far outweighed by vanity, vapidity and embarrassingly low-rent production values. (AH)

AQUA TEEN HUNGER FORCE COLON MOVIE FILM FOR THEATERS (R, 87 minutes) This movie, in which a pack of french fries, a wad of ground beef and a milkshake save the world — or at least, New Jersey — from a psychotic giant exercise machine built 70,000 years ago by aliens, is a work of either a profoundly transgressive genius or a goofball high on Pez and patio sealant. The animated 87 minutes feel pretty much beyond description. (SH)

AVENUE MONTAIGNE (R, 100 minutes) This delicately charming fable set in Paris offers the kind of experience we secretly crave when we visit any great city: meaningful encounters with its people. At the center is Jessica (Cécile De France), a sweethearted gamin from the provinces who has just arrived in the capital. To this country girl, Paris is the city of luxury, a picture-postcard world of hotels, expensive restaurants and fine living. This vicarious sojourn in Paris leaves us with souvenirs that few real trips could ever produce. (DT)

AWAY FROM HER (PG-13, 110 minutes) In this exquisite, closely observed portrait of a marriage, Julie Christie, who plays Fiona, a woman in the early throes of Alzheimer's, proves yet again that she's an actress not just of supreme physical beauty but finely tuned sensitivity. The film, which writer-director Sarah Polley adapted from an Alice Munro's short story, "The Bear Came Over the Mountain," chronicles the ebb and flow of Fiona's awareness, as well as her husband Grant's reluctant realization that, to keep the love of his life, he has to let her go. (AH)

BLACK BOOK (R, 45 minutes) This Dutch film tells the story of Rachel Stein (Carice van Houten), a Jewish cabaret singer trying to survive the Third Reich in the Netherlands in 1944. An errant bomb turns the farm where she has been hiding into a funeral pyre, and Rachel is on the run. Soon enough, she's reunited with her family and becomes the only survivor of an SS massacre. Indeed, massacres come fast and furious, as does a plot that shunts through developments faster than a dealer can shuffle a deck of cards. (SH)

BLADES OF GLORY (PG-13, 93 minutes) Will Ferrell and Jon Heder sashay into the graceful world of figure skating, playing two competitors who have been banned from the rink and learn that the only loophole that might permit them back onto the ice is to skate as a pairs team. To see seemingly regular guys utterly stripped of dignity and defense is cruel enough, but crueler still is the laughter that you cannot seem to stop from rupturing your lungs and aorta. (SH)

BREACH (PG-13, **110 MINUTES**) This film examines in microscopic detail the endgame of the manhunt for FBI mole Robert Hanssen, who pleaded guilty in 2001 to spying for Russia. The acting is superb, particularly from the three principals: Ryan Phillippe, Chris Cooper as Hanssen and the great Laura Linney. (SH)

DELTA FARCE (PG-13, 90 minutes) Larry the Cable Guy plays one of a sorry trio of National Guardsmen activated for service in Iraq, when all they're trained for is drinking gallons of beer away from their wives' supervision on that one weekend a month. But it doesn't matter when by lame contrivance they are accidentally air-dropped into Mexico, which for a long time, they mistake as Iraq. When the racism wears out, the low-budget movie turns into a "Three Amigos"/"Magnificent Seven" parody in the key of unfunny. (SH)

DISTURBIA (PG-13, 104 minutes) The much-maligned suburbs take another hit on the big screen. Shia LaBeouf plays Kale, a young man under house arrest for punching out his high school

Continued on page 26



DREAMWORKS ANIMATION LLC

'SHREK THE THIRD': AT WORLD'S END? "Shrek" knocked Spidey out of first, but can the green monster hold off "Pirates"? Don't bet against Captain Jack this weekend.



NEW LINE CINEMA

Sir Anthony Hopkins stars in the crime thriller "Fracture" with Ryan Gosling.

Sunday in The Washington Post



Summer Samples

The lazy days of summer will bring out a crop of new broadcast and cable shows. | *TV Week*

Straight Talk

What's the trick to making a toast? Here's what experts have to say about the dos — and don'ts — of the deed. | *Sunday Source*

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UNITED ARTISTS

HOWDY

Duke It Out

TIRED OF THOSE summer blockbusters already? Here comes the cavalry — literally. A trio of John Wayne films take the spotlight during AFI Silver's ongoing tribute to the "Duke." And these aren't any John Wayne films, either — these are three directed by John Ford. "She Wore a Yellow Ribbon" — said to be the star's favorite role — will be shown in matinees on Friday and Saturday and as part of a three-show mini-festival on Memorial Day. "Rio Grande" and "Fort Apache" will also be shown in Silver Spring. Three movies in a weekend is tough work, but a man's got to do what a man's got to do, right? (EXPRESS)

Now Playing

Continued from page 25

Spanish teacher. Things get mighty boring at home, and Kale picks up binoculars to check in on his neighbors. Despite going down a seemingly predictable road, the movie takes enough turns to keep you guessing. The ending, though, drags, and the film quickly shifts from a clever homage to "Rear Window" to a bad parody of "The Silence of the Lambs." (JOHN MAYNARD)

THE EX (PG-13, 89 minutes) This stunningly insipid romance marks an all-time low for actor Zach Braff. With its cookie-cutter story, this movie is far too bland for Braff fans seeking the earlier, funnier guy, and it's too sexually risque for family audiences seeking something contemporary but wholesome. (DT)

FAY GRIM (R, 118 minutes) Writer-director Hal Hartley has made a cult industry of his mannered quasi-comedies in which characters relate to one another in a sort of post-Samuel Beckett absurdity. Unfortunately, this sequel to 1997's "Henry Fool" sorely tests the tenacity of Hartley's most zealous fans. It stars Parker Posey as Fay, a single mom raising her 14-year-old son, Ned (Liam Aiken), and trying to forget her husband, Henry (Thomas Jay Ryan), a failed novelist and spy who fled the United States under mysterious circumstances. But two volumes of his "confessions," which give

Now Playing

away state secrets, are in the hands of the French government. And CIA operative Fulbright (Jeff Goldblum) wants Fay to retrieve them. Thus begins an intentionally convoluted parody of John le Carré-style espionage thrillers. The trouble is, what seemed cutting edge and sharp in the 1990s feels rehashed and old. (DT)

51 BIRCH STREET (Unrated, 90 minutes) In this documentary, filmmaker Doug Block narrates as we watch home movies of his childhood on Long Island, N.Y. But with breathtaking speed, the film takes a sudden turn, and what seemed to be just another middle-class family with intimacy issues becomes a microcosm of an entire era. Block does an outstanding job walking the knife edge between personal and self-absorbed. (AH)

THE FLYING SCOTSMAN (PG-13, 96 minutes) This is a classic tale of the heroic little guy, told with elegant restraint in this sensitive and beautifully rendered film. The little guy in question is Graeme Obree (Jonny Lee Miller), a Scottish messenger boy and amateur cyclist who defied the odds by twice holding the world hour record, one of cycling's most storied achievements. Obree battled depression before and after his triumphs, but that was hardly the worst of his problems. The greater evil was the sport itself — or rather, those who made up its rules. (SARAH KAUFMAN)

FRACTURE (R, 98 minutes) Anthony Hopkins plays an aeronautical engineer with a wife who is cheating on him. The husband tracks her to a hotel room, where she and her boyfriend cavort. That evening, she comes home and he shoots her. The old man surrenders and confesses. The case is given to a young prosecutor (Ryan Gosling) who's in his last week in the job and doesn't prepare for the initial hearing with quite the same passion as he might have and walks into a buzz saw. The geezer has tricked them all. The good part about this OK, but way less than great, thriller is that you won't notice how cheesy it is until the heartburn from the popcorn has eased. (SH)

GEORGIA RULE (R, 115 minutes) Just what we need least: a warm family comedy about child molestation. Widow Georgia (Jane Fonda) lives by the same unbending rules that have seen her through her whole life: each meal on time, early to bed, early to rise, repression unacknowledged but the powerful force in her life. Into this narrow but ordered existence come her messy but rich daughter, Lilly (Felicity Huffman), and her total train wreck of a granddaughter, Rachel (Lindsay Lohan). One problem is that Lohan isn't 17; she's 20 and looks about 35. (SH)

GRINDHOUSE (R, 191 minutes) What truly grinds in this film, a Quentin Tarantino-Robert Rodriguez double feature, is your butt against the seat. Checking in at more than three hours, it's one grand self-indulgence calibrated exquisitely for an audience that pines for the gory double-feature pleasures of movie forms that petered out in the early '70s. That audience can be counted: two. Named Tarantino and Rodriguez. (SH)

THE HIP HOP PROJECT (PG-13, 88 minutes) This documentary, directed by Matt Rushkin and executive-produced by Bruce Willis and Queen Latifah, looks good, with lots of snazzy speeded-up/slo-mo footage and dreamy, sepia-seeped images, and it has plenty of rich raw material: Formerly homeless rapper (Chris "Kazi" Rolle) turns troubled teens onto the beauty of rhymes. But there's not enough story to the story. Rushkin meanders from note to note, abandoning narrative structure along the way. Too much time is spent on process: boring meetings and mediocre performance shots of unidentified rappers. (TERESA WILTZ)

THE HOAX (R, 116 minutes) This film is based on the true story of Clifford Irving, whose "authorized autobiography" of reclusive billionaire Howard Hughes in the early 1970s was exposed as a fake. As the movie tells it, Irving (Richard Gere) was an opportunist, an adulterer and a scoundrel, with mounting bills and the ill-advised chutzpah to fool McGraw-Hill into giving him a million dollars for an empty promise. It's too bad the pristine simplicity of Irving's greed is not enough to galvanize the movie. (DT)

HOT FUZZ (R, 121 minutes) The hilarious zombie satire "Shaun of the Dead" seemed to arrive out of nowhere in 2004,

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LIONSGATE FILMS

JUDD IN PERIL

'Bug' Flies Off Course

'BUG' IS A different kind of woman-in-peril movie starring Ashley Judd, which has long been its own specific genre. Judd is indeed in peril once again, but she gets to prove she can actually act with some depth, and not just look pretty under strain. Whatever unexpected ability she shows in the early scenes of this paranoid thriller goes utterly to waste, however, as the film spirals ridiculously, laughably out of control by the end. Amazingly, the film comes from veteran William Friedkin ("The Exorcist," "The French Connection"), a director who has seen better days, decades ago. (AP)



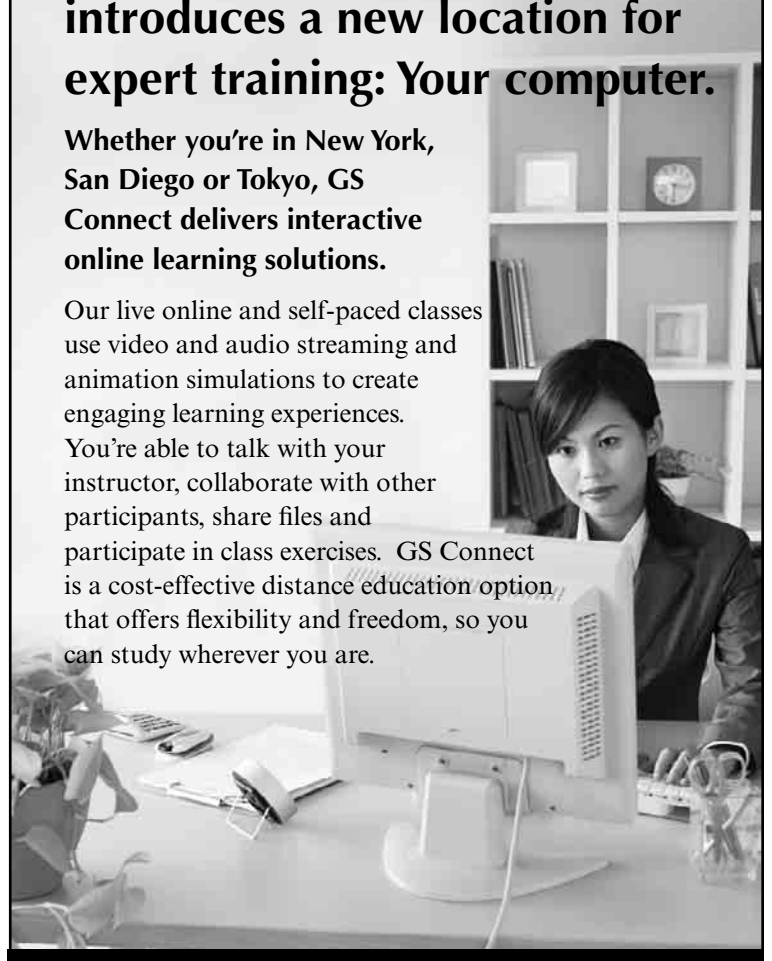
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TOTAL RECALL: Carice van Houten as Rachel/Ellis in "Black Book" — a World War II film from director Paul Verhoeven.

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Weekend | Entertainment

Now Playing

Continued from page 27

written by actor Simon Pegg and co-written and directed by Edgar Wright. The team is back with this takeoff on Hollywood action flicks at their most ludicrously macho. The film could easily have lost 20 minutes or so in jittery montages and stylized set pieces, but for viewers in the mood for smart-stupid slapstick, it's a diverting jape. (AH)

HURRICANE ON THE BAYOU (Unrated, 40 minutes) You might think it would be impossible to make a happy film about Hurricane Katrina, but the producers of this Imax film pitched at children (and gullible adults) give it a game try. They tell their story — about life on the bayou, the loss of wetlands and the impact of that loss on New Orleans when Katrina roared in — through the eyes of Amanda Shaw, a teenage fiddle player who gives a wide-eyed tour of the musical and natural beauty of the Louisiana swamplands. The movie is filled with music and cameos by famous musicians, and it follows the Imax formula: incredible close-ups and lush landscapes. But the narrative is built one happy cliche at a time. (PHILIP KENNICOTT)



DREAMWORKS/COLD SPRING PICTURES

DON'T BE SHIA: Future "Indiana Jones" star Shia LaBeouf spies on his neighbors in "Disturbia," a take on "Rear Window."

IN THE LAND OF WOMEN (PG-13, 98 minutes) Written and directed by first-timer Jon Kasdan — son of filmmaker Lawrence Kasdan — this is a quasi-autobiographical drama about the unusual relationship between a mopey young man and two women, a mother and daughter. Recovering from a breakup, Carter (Adam Brody) volunteers to take care of his grandmother (Olympia Dukakis) in suburban Detroit. It isn't long before he befriends 40-something Sarah (Meg Ryan), a bored mom who lives across the road. Their friendship becomes a sort of spiritual glue for both. But as Carter becomes increasingly involved — platonically again — with Sarah's teenage daughter, Lucy (Kristen Stewart), life becomes complicated. The movie explores the uncharted zone between friendship and romance, and it refuses to descend into the cute smarminess of a mutual recovery drama, thanks to originally conceived characters. (DT)

THE INVISIBLE (PG-13, 97 minutes) This part ghost story, part cloak-and-dagger melodrama, set in a Seattle high school and couched in teenagery post-modern coolness, stretches our credibility to wafer thinness. The story revolves around the death — or pending death — of Nick (Justin Chatwin), an intelligent student who comes back as a ghost desperately trying to save his own life. The movie, based on the Swedish book



TARTAN FILMS

Catherine Frot stars in "The Page Turner," a French delicacy of a film.

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"Den Osynlige" (which novelist Mats Wahl adapted for the Swedish movie of the same name), comes across as forced. (DT)

THE LIVES OF OTHERS (R, 137 minutes) This German movie begins in 1984, when the secret police, or Stasi, routinely bugged, tailed and intimidated its citizens. Plotted as tautly as a cop procedural but playing more like a modern allegory, this film personalizes its Orwellian world through the eyes of Gerd Wiesler (Ulrich Muehe), a frosty Stasi officer. To watch this film is not just to enjoy a fabulously constructed timepiece; it's to appreciate a deft cautionary tale. (DT)

LUCKY YOU (PG-13, 124 minutes) In this turgid, not-very-romantic comedy, hit-and-miss director Curtis Hanson sets out to answer the cinematic question: Is poker the most boring game one can represent on screen? Congratulations, Mr. Hanson, the answer is yes, as demonstrated in this lifeless story of a compulsive gambler (Eric Bana) and the good-hearted gal (Drew Barrymore) who tries to save him from himself. (AH)

THE NAMESAKE (PG-13, 117 minutes) This film begins in the late 1970s on a train to Calcutta when a young man, Ashoke Ganguli (Irfan Khan), meets a passenger, who encourages him to see the world. It is the combination of this meeting, the calamitous event that follows and the short story he is reading at the time that sets Ashoke's future. Although we miss some of the finer details that made Jhumpa Lahiri's book so meaningful, we're moved by the movie's themes of cultural displacement and the power of chance. (DT)

MEET THE ROBINSONS (G, 92 MINUTES) This animated feature is the story of an orphan named Lewis (voiced by Daniel Hansen and Jordan Fry) who yearns to be an in ventor and is whisked into a futuristic world by a kid named Wilbur (Wesley Singerman). At first it seems to be one of those foundling dramas that perpetuates the most unfortunate myths about adop tion. But everything — including that issue—turns out okay in the end, as director Stephen J. Anderson not only creates a visually arresting version of the future but a terrific story as well. (AH)

MISS POTTER (PG, 92 MINUTES) In this film about children's author Beatrix Potter (Renee Zellweger), we learn about the restrictive household in which she lived and how she takes comfort in the animals she befriends, adopts and an–thropomorphizes in her stories. When Beatrix falls in love with Norman Warne (Ewan McGregor), her publisher, her parents object to the union because Norman works for a living. And it takes becoming a celebrity author for Beatrix to achieve their begrudging respect. If the movie is respectful and factually informative, it's also tightly corseted — in dramatic terms. The dialogue and the performances are all too often on the nose; we're made to understand everything on the surface with little subtext. Zellweger is certainly likable as Beatrix, but as an upper-class English lady of a century ago, she enunciates her words as if sucking a lemon — you almost start to wonder if you've stumbled into a satire of "Masterpiece Theatre." (DT)



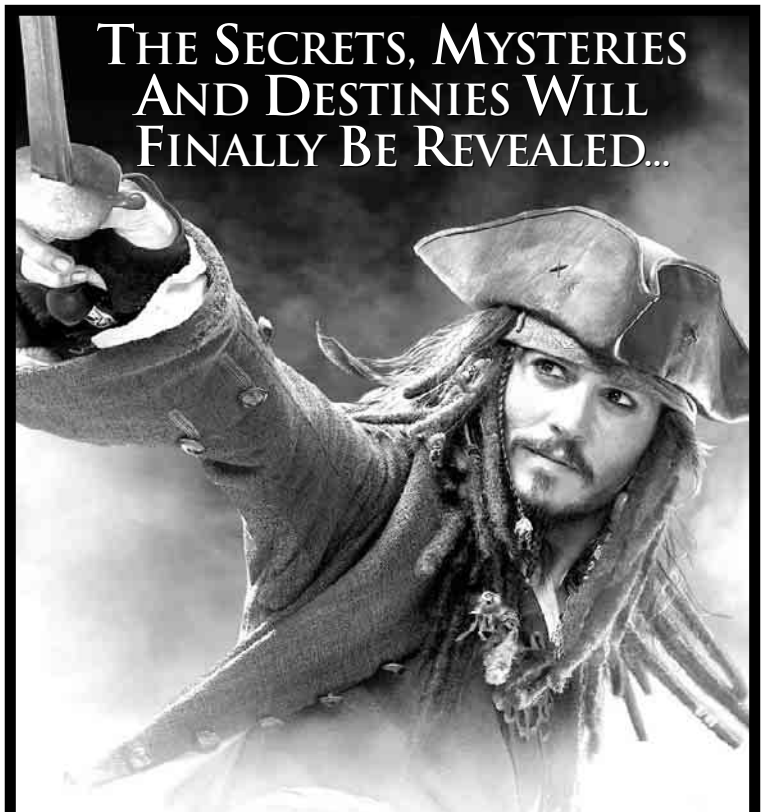
LIONSGATE

IF YOU LIKE 'DELTA FARCE,' YOU MIGHT BE A REDNECK: Who would win in a fight: Chuck Norris or Larry the Cable Guy? Let's just say Norris probably gets free HBO.

OFFSIDE (PG, 93 MINUTES) In 2000, Iranian filmmaker Jafar Panahi made "The Circle," a scathing indictment of the treatment of women under the fundamentalist Islamic regime. The sexual anxiety, hypocrisy and cruelty that fuel that movement come under gentler but just as sharp-eyed scrutiny in Panahi's new film about a group of Tehrani teenage girls trying to get into a soccer match. Panahi has perfected the art of realist filmmaking, here turning his camera on scenes that seem more improvised or captured on the fly than staged. Just as fascinating as these outspoken, brave young women are the male police officers

Continued on page 30

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Now Playing

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who grapple with their own mixed feelings about the oppression they've been co-opted into enforcing. (AH)

NEXT (PG-13, 96 MINUTES) Nicolas Cage plays Cris Johnson, a Las Vegas magician with a startling gift — the ability to foretell his future, two minutes ahead of time. This allows him to win big at the Vegas tables, and it allows him to quickly road-test the immediate future, as it were, by exploring options, ranging from trying different pickup lines on a woman to seeing if there's a gunman around the corner. Both activities come into play, as Cris pursues the woman of his dreams (Jessica Biel), while FBI agent Callie Ferris (Julianne Moore) forces him to use his powers to save Los Angeles from a dirty bomb. Cage makes a fascinatingly haunted antihero, and director Lee Tamahori keeps the movie pinging and zipping along. But there's no escaping the hackneyed storyline, with its one-dimensional gallery of eastern European terrorists and ear-mike-sporting FBI agents. (DT)

THE PAGE TURNER (Unrated, 85 minutes) What this film lacks in scale and ambition, it makes up for in precision. It's a small French delicacy — tart, acerbic and cynical — that focuses on three or four characters and yet manages to bring them and their dilemmas to vivid life. We meet Mélanie at 10 on the day that she plays the piano before a panel that will or will not admit her to a prestigious academy. As she begins her prelude, one of the judges is interrupted by an autograph seeker, and so frail a grasp does the young woman have on her talent, she lets it destroy her. Déborah François plays the young woman Mélanie grows into, and the movie follows as she insinuates her way into the lives of those whom she considers her targets. (SH)



LIONSGATE

LETTING GO: Julie Christie and Gordon Pinsent star in "Away From Her," in which Pinsent plays a character struggling to care for his wife (Christie), who has Alzheimer's.

PERFECT STRANGER (R, 110 minutes) Halle Berry plays a New York reporter who specializes in getting the goods. Quickly enough, Berry's Rowena is approached by an old friend named Grace (Nicki Aycox), who dumps a load of woe on her. Grace began an illicit relationship with a prominent ad exec who is now trying to dump her. She hopes that Rowena will help her in a revenge plot.



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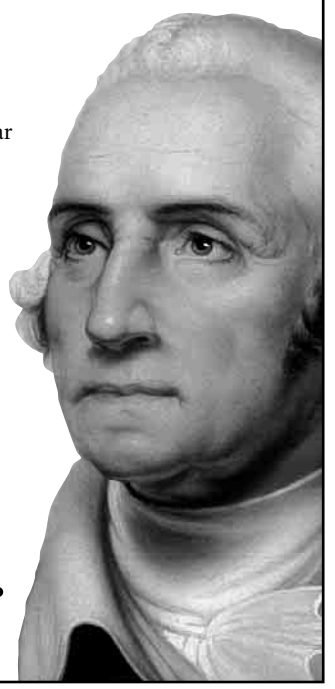
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Now Playing

She turns over a batch of documents and then conveniently is found dead. Suddenly, Rowena is engaged at the thought of bringing down another fat cat. The movie is just another thriller in town for a few desultory weeks until it heads off to a mild afterlife on DVD and then richly deserved oblivion. (SH)

PROVOKED (Unrated, 113 minutes) Bollywood stunner Aishwarya Rai plays Kiranjit Ahluwalia, who in 1989 killed her abusive husband. She appealed her murder conviction and introduced battered woman's syndrome as a legal defense in England. If you're thinking you've seen this before, you're right: Farrah Fawcett starred in a similar role in "The Burning Bed," a movie of the week made in 1984. Unfortunately, this film possesses the tinny production values and schmaltzy music of a prime-time special, despite its ensemble of terrific actors. (AH)

SHREK THE THIRD (PG, 93 minutes) This sequel's humor is all in the business and nowhere in the lame story's two subplots, neither of which is strong enough to sustain a real movie. In one, Shrek (voiced by Mike Myers) becomes king upon the death of the frog king of Far Far Away. And guess what. He doesn't like it and goes in search of a kid named Arthur who is the real heir to the throne. Meanwhile, the disgruntled Prince Charming (Rupert Everett) is plotting a coup. So, the movie cuts between Shrek's adventures and the revolutionary politics of Far Far Away, which culminate in Princess Fiona (Cameron Diaz) and her court being imprisoned. Shrek and the boy king (Justin Timberlake) return and run a counter-coup, which climaxes in — this is where it gets a little weird — a huge musical comedy number. It plays even dumber than it sounds. (SH)

SPIDER-MAN 3 (PG-13, 140 minutes) Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst and James Franco reunite in the third installment of the Spidey story, which is still dominated by father figures, sexual competition and revenge. Peter's erstwhile best friend, Harry (Franco), is still convinced that Peter killed his dad. But in an apparent effort to put a stake in the heart of the franchise that threatens to define his career, director Sam Raimi has delivered an overlong, visually incoherent, mean-spirited and often just plain awful sequel. (AH)

TMNT (PG, 90 minutes) This is the fourth in a series chronicling the adventures of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, but it's the first to arrive in complete computer-generated imagery. It's a far grittier, grungier kind of New York than in the previous films, and the detail has been worked out to a thoroughly impressive degree. (SH)

28 WEEKS LATER (R, 99 minutes) Directed with lethal precision by Spanish filmmaker Juan Carlos Fresnadillo, this horror film is as viscerally compelling as smash-mouth filmmaking gets. It's a B-movie along the lines of "Night of the Living Dead" that plays like a reality TV nightmare with no narrative beginning, middle or ending — just survival as an ongoing quest. (DT)

VACANCY (R, 80 minutes) This is just another motel-hell horror flick in which an attractive couple discovers that "room service" isn't about clean towels and champagne so much as getting stabbed and videotaped for snuff films. (DT)

THE VALET (PG-13, 85 minutes) This is a classic French farce. The fabulous Daniel Auteuil plays a Paris industrialist who is photographed with his supermodel girlfriend (Alice Taglioni), then enlists a hapless car-parker (Gad Elmaleh) to cover for him by moving in with her. If it sounds improbable now, just wait: The movie is full of so many outlandish twists and turns that it must be taken with the biggest grain of fleur de sel you can find. Still, viewers willing to suspend disbelief are in for a sunny, funny good time. (AH)

WAITRESS (PG-13, 104 minutes) Keri Russell has a fine turn as the title character in writer/director/co-star Adrienne Shelly's witty fable about a working-class Southern gal married to an abusive dolt named Earl (Jeremy Sisto). Jenna (Russell) dreams of escaping her oppressive circumstances by winning the top prize in a pie-baking contest. But things get sticky when Jenna finds out she's pregnant. Enter a hunky obstetrician (Nathan Fillion) who sweeps Jenna off her feet and promises a way out. (PAUL FARHI)

YEAR OF THE DOG (PG-13, 97 minutes) TV and film writer Mike White makes his directorial debut with this film, delivering another weirdly dark but funny story, this time about a lonely secretary and devoted dog owner named Peggy (Molly Shannon), who, after the death of her beloved beagle, spins into a vortex of grief, overcompensation and, finally, a terrifying breakdown. The movie is awkwardly staged and uneven in tone, but it becomes a cathartic portrait of a woman unapologetically owning her desires. (AH)

REVIEWS BY THE WASHINGTON POST'S **ANN HORNADAY**, **STEPHEN HUNTER**, **MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN**, **DESSON THOMSON** AND **TERESA WILTZ**. FOR MORE CAPSULES AND FULL REVIEWS OF THESE AND OTHER FILMS, SEE **WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT**



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FIRST-TIME British feature film director Andrea Arnold, who won an Oscar for her short film "Wasp," creates an Orwellian-type tale in "Red Road." The film, playing at Landmark's E Street Cinema, is a gritty look at Glasow's projects though an all-seeing City Eye Surveillance system. Voyeurism is obviously one of the film's themes, especially dealing with protagonist Jackie, who works as an operator of the eye. Of course, Jackie sees someone she recognizes and — stop if you have heard this before — has a dark connection to. Still, no less than the L.A. Times says this road is "well worth the trip." (EXPRESS)






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OC & DA: SHREK 3 (PG) DIG ★ (1230) PM
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GEORGIA RULE (R) - ID REQ'D DIG 1200 AM
SPIDER-MAN 3 (PG-13) DIG (945 1215 100) 315 415 630 720 945 1035
FRACTURE (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1245) 745
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GEORGIA RULE (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (920 340) 1030
SPIDER-MAN 3 (PG-13) DIG (930 1030 1240 110 140 350 420 450) 700 730 800 1010 1040
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28 WEEKS LATER (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (915 1215 245 515) 800 1030
GEORGIA RULE (R) - ID REQ'D DIG 1000 PM
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28 WEEKS LATER (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (100) 945
SPIDER-MAN 3 (PG-13) DIG (915 1200 330 400) 645 715 1015
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BUG (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1200 235 515) 750 1025
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3- DIGITAL PROJECTION (PG-13) DIG ★ (1250 430) 810 1150
OC & DA: SHREK 3 (PG) DIG ★ (1040) AM
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OC & DA: SHREK 3 (PG) DIG ★ (1100) AM
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28 WEEKS LATER (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1140 220 510) 745 1025
GEORGIA RULE (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (350) 930
SPIDER-MAN 3 (PG-13) DIG (920 1020 1225 125 340 440) 700 800 1015
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SHREK THE THIRD (PG) DIG ★ (930 1100 1130 1200 1230 130 200 230 300 400 430 500 545) 630 700 730 800 900 930 1030 1130 1200 1230
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BUG (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1240 410) 735 1010
WAITRESS (PG-13) DIG (1210 110 300 400) 645 740 940 1020
GEORGIA RULE (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1245 340) 725 1005
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OC & DA: SHREK 3 (PG) DIG ★ (1130) AM
SHREK THE THIRD (PG) DIG ★ (930 1000 1100 1200 1230 130 200 230 300 400 430 500 530) 630 700 730 800 900 930 1000 1030
SPIDER-MAN 3 (PG-13) DIG (930 1230 100 345 415) 700 730 1015 1045
28 WEEKS LATER (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1050 120 515) 745 1030
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BUG (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1100 200 445) 745 1020
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SHREK THE THIRD (PG) DIG ★ (930 1000 1100 1130 1200 1230 130 200 230 300 400 430 500 530) 630 700 730 800 930 1000 1030
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PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: WORLD'S END (PG-13) DIG ★ (940 1010 1120 1150 1220 120 150 305 330 400 500 530) 645 710 740 840 910 1025 1050
SHREK THE THIRD (PG) DIG ★ (1000 1100 1140 1210 1235 135 210 245 315 420 445 510) 630 700 730 755 900 930 1035
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28 WEEKS LATER (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1130 220 455) 745 1010
GEORGIA RULE (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1035) 940
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28 WEEKS LATER (R) 12:10, 2:50, 5:30, 8:10, 10:35

GEORGIA RULE (R) (10:25 @ $6), 1:20, 4:15

SPIDER-MAN 3 (PG13) (10:05 @ $6), 12:05, 12:30, 1:15, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30, 6:50, 7:20, 7:50, 9:55, 10:25, 10:55

NEXT (PG13) 10:20 PM

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BUG (R) ✓ 1:30, 4:10, 6:45, 9:30, 12:10

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SHREK THE THIRD (PG) [CC] ✓ 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30

28 WEEKS LATER (R) 12:00, 2:10, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50, 12:20

SPIDER-MAN 3 (PG13) 12:35, 1:45, 3:50, 5:00, 7:05, 8:15, 10:15, 11:20

FRACTURE (R) 2:05, 4:55, 7:35, 10:20

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SHREK THE THIRD (PG) ✓ 12:15, 2:00, 2:45, 4:30, 5:15, 7:00, 7:45, 9:30, 10:00

28 WEEKS LATER (R) 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15

SPIDER-MAN 3 (PG13) 12:00, 1:00, 3:30, 4:15, 6:45, 7:30, 10:00, 10:45

NEXT (PG13) 12:45, 3:15, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10

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9811 Washingtonian Boulevard
301-948-0906

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END (PG13) ✓ (10:00, 10:50, 11:20, 11:50 @ $5), 12:30, 1:15, 1:50, 2:40, 3:10, 3:45, 4:20, 5:00, 5:35, 6:25, 7:00, 7:30, 8:10, 8:50, 9:30, 10:20, 11:00, 11:30, 11:50, 12:20

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END (PG13) [CC] ✓ (11:50 @ $5), 3:45, 7:30, 11:30

BUG (R) ✓ (10:50 @ $5), 1:25, 4:10, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20

SHREK THE THIRD (PG) ✓ (10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30 @ $5), 12:05, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:05, 4:30, 5:00, 5:30, 6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30; 10:00, 10:30, 11:15, 12:10

28 WEEKS LATER (R) (10:10 @ $5), 12:40, 3:20, 5:50, 8:15, 10:40

GEORGIA RULE (R) 10:30 PM

SPIDER-MAN 3 (PG13) (10:15, 11:00, 11:45 @ $5), 1:30, 2:15, 3:00, 4:45, 5:30, 6:15, 7:55, 8:45, 9:40, 11:05, 11:50

DISTURBIA (PG13) 10:50 PM

AMC SELECT

WAITRESS (PG13) ✓ (10:20 @ $5), 12:50, 3:30, 6:10, 8:40, 11:10

AMC POTOMAC MILLS 18
2700 Potomac Mills Circle, Ste 886
703-998-4262

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END (PG13) ✓ (9:45, 10:20, 10:55, 11:30 @ $5), 12:10, 12:50, 1:30, 2:05, 2:40, 3:15, 3:55, 4:35, 5:15, 5:50, 6:25, 7:00, 7:40, 8:20, 9:00, 9:35, 10:10, 10:45, 11:25

BUG (R) ✓ (11:00 @ $5), 1:45, 4:25, 7:15, 10:00

SHREK THE THIRD (PG) ✓ (10:15, 10:40, 11:05, 11:35 @ $5), 12:00, 12:25, 12:45, 1:10, 1:35, 2:00, 2:25, 2:50, 3:10, 3:40, 4:05, 4:30, 4:55, 5:20, 5:45, 6:10, 6:35, 7:05, 7:25, 7:50; 8:15, 8:40, 9:05, 9:30, 9:55, 10:20, 10:50, 11:10, 11:35

SHREK THE THIRD (PG) [D] [CC] ✓ 12:00, 2:25, 4:55, 7:25, 9:55

28 WEEKS LATER (R) (11:40 @ $5), 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:15

GEORGIA RULE (R) 12:05, 2:45, 5:25

SPIDER-MAN 3 (PG13) (11:10 @ $5), 12:20, 1:15, 2:20, 3:30, 4:20, 5:30, 6:40, 7:30, 8:50, 9:50, 10:40

DISTURBIA (PG13) 8:00, 10:30

AMC COLUMBIA MALL 14
10300 Patuxent Parkway
410-423-0520

PRESENTED IN DIGITAL PROJECTION

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END (PG13) (9:20, 10:45 @ $5), 1:00, 4:45, 5:30, 8:30, 9:15, 12:10

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END (PG13) (10:00, 11:30 @ $5), 12:20, 1:45, 2:30, 3:15, 4:05, 6:15, 7:00, 7:45, 10:00, 10:45, 11:30

BUG (R) (11:00 @ $5), 1:35, 4:15, 6:45, 9:20, 11:55

SHREK THE THIRD (PG) (9:30, 10:05, 10:40, 11:15, 11:55 @ $5), 12:30, 1:05, 1:40, 2:20, 2:55, 3:30, 4:10, 4:50, 5:20, 5:55, 6:35, 7:15, 7:50, 8:20, 9:00, 9:40, 10:15, 10:50, 11:25; 12:05 AM

SHREK THE THIRD (PG) [D] [CC] (11:15 @ $5), 1:40, 4:10, 6:35, 9:00, 11:25

28 WEEKS LATER (R) (10:35 @ $5), 1:15, 3:50, 6:25, 8:55, 11:20

GEORGIA RULE (R) (9:40 @ $5), 12:15, 2:50, 5:25

SPIDER-MAN 3 (PG13) (10:15, 11:20 @ $5), 1:20, 2:35, 4:25, 5:40, 7:30, 8:45, 10:35, 11:50

DISTURBIA (PG13) 8:05, 10:40

MAGIC JOHNSON CAPITAL CENTRE 12
800 Shopper's Way, Largo
301-324-4220

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END (PG13) 12:00, 12:30, 1:45, 2:30, 3:40, 4:15, 5:30, 6:10, 7:10, 8:00, 9:15, 10:00, 10:45

BUG (R) 1:00, 3:40, 6:40, 9:20

SHREK THE THIRD (PG) 12:15, 12:45, 1:30, 2:45, 3:20, 4:00, 5:15, 5:45, 6:30, 7:45, 8:15, 9:00, 10:20, 10:45

28 WEEKS LATER (R) 12:50, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:40

SPIDER-MAN 3 (PG13) 12:20, 2:50, 3:50, 6:00, 7:20, 9:30, 10:30

SPIDER-MAN 3 (PG13) [CC] 2:50, 6:00, 9:30

DISTURBIA (PG13) 4:50, 10:10

PERFECT STRANGER (R) 1:50, 7:30

LOEWS FAIRFAX SQUARE 8
8065 Leesburg Pike
703-506-9857 802

DELTA FARCE (PG13) 12:00, 5:00, 10:00

GEORGIA RULE (R) 1:40, 4:20, 7:30, 9:55

PROVOKED - A TRUE STORY (NR-NOT RATED) 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 8:10, 10:30

FRACTURE (R) 1:50, 4:30, 7:40, 10:05

HOT FUZZ (R) 2:20, 7:10

DISTURBIA (PG13) 1:30, 4:10, 6:45, 9:00

BLADES OF GLORY (PG13) 12:10, 4:40, 9:50

300 (R) 2:15, 7:20

BREACH (PG13) 12:00, 2:30, 5:20, 8:00, 10:25

AMC SELECT

THE NAMESAKE (PG13) 1:20, 4:00, 7:00, 9:35

LOEWS DUPONT 5
1350 19th St.
1-800-FANDANGO #711

GEORGIA RULE (R) 5:15, 10:20

HOT FUZZ (R) 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:10

AMC SELECT

THE VALET (PG13) 1:15, 3:30, 5:30, 7:45, 9:50

YEAR OF THE DOG (PG13) 2:15, 8:00

THE NAMESAKE (PG13) 1:30, 4:15, 7:15, 10:00

AVENUE MONTAIGNE (PG13) 1:45, 4:30, 7:00, 9:40

LOEWS UPTOWN 1
3426 Connecticut Avenue N.W.
1-800-FANDANGO #713

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END (PG13) ✓ 11:00, 2:45, 6:30, 10:15

AMC TYSONS CORNER 16
7850 Tysons Corner Center
703-998-4262

PRESENTED IN DIGITAL PROJECTION

SHREK THE THIRD (PG) ✓ (11:05 @ $6), 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:20, 11:35

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END (PG13) ✓ (10:05, 10:45, 11:30 @ $6), 12:20, 1:00, 1:55, 2:45, 3:20, 4:05, 5:00, 5:40, 6:25, 7:05, 8:00, 8:55, 9:35, 10:20, 10:55, 11:45, 12:35

BUG (R) ✓ (11:15 @ $6), 1:50, 4:25, 7:10, 9:55, 12:25

SHREK THE THIRD (PG) ✓ (10:10, 10:35, 11:40 @ $6), 12:10, 12:40, 1:15, 2:15, 2:40, 3:10, 3:40, 4:45, 5:15, 5:50, 6:15, 7:15, 7:50, 8:15, 8:45, 9:45, 10:10, 10:40, 11:10, 12:05

SHREK THE THIRD (PG) [D] [CC] ✓ 12:10, 2:40, 5:15, 7:50, 10:10

28 WEEKS LATER (R) (10:15 @ $6), 12:30, 2:55, 5:25, 7:55, 10:15, 12:40

SPIDER-MAN 3 (PG13) (10:00, 11:00 @ $6), 12:00, 1:05, 2:05, 3:05, 4:20, 5:20, 6:20, 7:30, 8:40, 9:50, 10:50, 11:55

AMC SELECT

WAITRESS (PG13) ✓ (11:20 @ $6), 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00, 12:30

AMC RIVERTOWNE 12
Exit 4A I-95, 1/2 mi. on Oxon Hill Rd.
703-998-4AMC

SHREK THE THIRD (PG) ✓ 5:30, 8:00, 10:20

28 WEEKS LATER (R) 5:00, 8:05, 10:30

THE SALON (PG13) 5:45, 8:15, 10:45

SPIDER-MAN 3 (PG13) 4:00, 6:15, 7:00, 9:45, 10:25

KICKIN' IT OLD SKOOL (PG13) 4:50, 7:40, 10:20

NEXT (PG13) 5:40, 8:00, 10:40

VACANCY (R) 4:30, 7:20, 10:10

DISTURBIA (PG13) 4:40, 7:45, 10:10

PERFECT STRANGER (R) 4:25, 7:10, 10:15

ARE WE DONE YET? (PG) 4:20, 7:20, 9:50

MEET THE ROBINSONS (G) 5:45, 8:10, 10:30

AMC MAZZA GALLERIE
Jenifer and Wisconsin
202-537-9553

SHREK THE THIRD (PG) ✓ 1:45, 2:45, 4:30, 5:15, 7:00, 7:45, 9:30, 10:15

28 WEEKS LATER (R) 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

GEORGIA RULE (R) 1:50, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

SPIDER-MAN 3 (PG13) 1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:15, 8:15, 10:10

FRACTURE (R) 2:10, 4:50, 7:25, 10:20

AMC COURTHOUSE PLAZA 8
Courthouse and Birch Rd.
703-998-4AMC

BUG (R) ✓ 12:40, 3:00, 5:40, 7:50, 10:20

SHREK THE THIRD (PG) ✓ 12:00, 1:00, 2:15, 3:15, 4:30, 5:30, 6:45, 7:45, 9:00, 10:00

28 WEEKS LATER (R) 12:20, 2:35, 5:10, 7:20, 9:40

FRACTURE (R) 1:10, 3:40, 6:50, 9:30

HOT FUZZ (R) 12:50, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

BLADES OF GLORY (PG13) 12:10, 2:25, 4:40, 7:00, 9:15

AMC SELECT

WAITRESS (PG13) ✓ 12:05, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:10

LOEWS SHIRLINGTON 7
2772 South Randolph
703-671-0910 801

AMC SELECT

WAITRESS (PG13) 1:40, 2:20, 4:20, 5:00, 7:10, 7:50, 9:20, 10:00

AWAY FROM HER (PG13) 2:10, 4:40, 7:40, 9:50

PARIS, JE T'AIME (R) 1:50, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40

JINDABYNE (R) 1:30, 4:10, 7:00, 9:30

THE VALET (PG13) 2:00, 4:10, 7:00, 9:00

THE NAMESAKE (PG13) 1:20, 4:30, 7:30, 9:50

LOEWS WHITE FLINT 5
North Bethesda
1-800-FANDANGO #741

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END (PG13) 1:45, 2:30, 5:10, 6:30, 9:00, 10:00

SHREK THE THIRD (PG) 2:00, 4:20, 7:00, 9:25

SPIDER-MAN 3 (PG13) 1:50, 4:30, 7:25, 10:25

AMC SELECT

WAITRESS (PG13) 2:05, 4:40, 7:05, 9:35

Times for Friday, May 25, 2007

✓-SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT No passes or discount coupons — [CC] - Closed Captioning · [D] - Descriptive Video Service

MARYLAND

ACADEMY STADIUM THEATRES at Beltway Plaza
www.Academy8theaters.com
Center Court
Beltway Exit 23, W. on Greenbelt Rd.
301-220-1155
(!) No Pass/No Discount Ticket
COMPLETELY REMODELED!
LOWEST PRICES IN THE METRO AREA!
ALL SHOWS BEFORE 6 PM ONLY $5.00!
ALL NEW STADIUM SEATING!
MOST COMFORTABLE SEATS IN TOWN!
ACRES OF FREE PARKING
ONLY MINUTES FROM THE BELTWAY!
WHY GO ANYWHERE ELSE?

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END (PG-13)
(!) 11:30, 12:00, 1:00, 3:00, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 7:00, 9:00, 10:00, 10:15
BUG (R)
(!) 12:30, 3:00, 5:15, 7:40, 10:15
SHREK THE THIRD (PG)
(!) 11:45, 12:30, 2:00, 2:45, 4:15, 5:00, 6:45, 7:15, 9:00, 9:30
28 WEEKS LATER (R)
(!) 1:00, 4:00, 10:15
SPIDER-MAN 3 (PG-13)
(!) 12:00, 3:15, 4:00, 6:45, 7:15, 10:00

LANDMARK'S BETHESDA ROW
7235 Woodmont Ave • (301) 652-7273
Moviefone (301 or 202) 333-FILM #805
Bargain Mats. all shows before 6 pm ♿
THE NAMESAKE (PG-13)
6:40
THE LIVES OF OTHERS (R)
2:30, 9:20
PARIS, JE T'AIME (R)
1:35, 4:15, 7:00, 9:40
ONCE (R)
1:45, 2:15, 4:20, 4:50, 7:10, 7:40, 9:30, 10:00
THE WAITRESS (PG-13)
1:30, 2:05, 4:05, 4:40, 6:50, 7:25, 9:25, 9:55
AWAY FROM HER (PG-13)
1:40, 4:10, 6:45, 9:15
THE VALET (PG-13)
2:10, 4:30, 7:30, 9:45

LAUREL CINEMA 6
LAUREL SHOPPING CENTER RT. 1
301-604-2885
SHOWS BEFORE 6PM $5.00
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END (PG-13) 3:45, 7:00, 10:15
SHREK THE THIRD (PG) 5:20, 7:30, 9:35
SPIDER-MAN 3 (PG-13) 4:10, 7:00, 9:40
MISS POTTER (PG) 4:45, 7:20, 9:30

MARLOW 6 THEATRES
Temple Hills, Md. 301-316-1031
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END (PG-13) 12:00, 2:00, 3:15, 5:15, 6:30, 8:30, 9:45
SHREK THE THIRD (PG)
12:15, 1:15, 2:20, 3:10, 4:15, 5:10, 6:15, 7:10, 8:15, 9:10, 10:15
SPIDER-MAN 3 (PG-13)
12:20, 3:05, 5:55, 8:45, 9:35
BUG (R) 12:30, 2:35, 4:40, 6:45, 8:50, 10:55

P&G WESTFIELD MONTGOMERY
7101 Democracy Blvd. Beth. 301-767-9555
BARGAIN MATINEES BEFORE 6 PM!
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END (PG-13)
12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:15
SHREK THE THIRD (PG)
12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:35
SPIDER-MAN 3 (PG-13)
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55

P&G OLD GREENBELT
301-474-9744
40 ft. Screen
At intersection of Crescent & Southway
THE WAITRESS (PG-13)
(5:00 @ $6.00) 7:30, 9:45
(No coupons or passes accepted)

P&G WHEATON ART CINEMA
Westfield Wheaton Mall 301-949-9201
Located at the Wheaton Plaza 11
301-949-9201 (!) denotes no passes
All shows before 6pm $6.00
THE NAMESAKE (PG-13) 7:35
28 WEEKS LATER... (R) 5:25, 9:50
BLACKBOOK (R) 4:00, 6:45, 9:35

The Majestic 20
900 Ellsworth Drive 240-393-4826
(Downtown Silver Spring) Silver Spring, Md.
www.consolidatedmovies.com
★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
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Bring your babies & enjoy the show
Call Theatre for Details

*NO PASSES ACCEPTED
***PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END (PG-13)**
10:30, 11:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30, 5:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 10:30, 11:00
***SHREK THE THIRD (PG)**
10:45, 11:15, 11:45, 12:15, 12:45, 1:15, 1:45, 2:15, 2:45, 3:15, 3:45, 4:15, 4:45, 5:15, 5:45, 6:15, 6:45, 7:15, 7:45, 8:15, 8:45, 9:15, 9:45, 10:15, 10:45
SPIDER-MAN 3 (PG-13)
11:05, 12:05, 2:20, 3:20, 4:20, 5:35, 6:35, 7:35, 8:50, 9:50, 10:50
***BUG (R)**
11:55, 2:35, 5:10, 8:05, 10:55
28 WEEKS LATER (R)
12:10, 2:40, 5:20, 7:55, 10:25
GEORGIA RULE (R)
10:55, 1:40, 4:35, 7:20, 10:10
DISTURBIA (PG-13)
12:20, 2:55, 5:30, 8:10, 10:40
HOT FUZZ (R)
11:10, 1:55, 4:40, 7:40
INVISIBLE (PG-13)
11:20, 1:50
VACANCY (R)
2:05, 6:55
FRACTURE (R)
11:25, 4:10

P&G WHEATON 11--
Westfield Wheaton Mall 301-949-9201
301-949-9201 (!) denotes no passes
All shows before 6pm $6.00
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END (PG-13)
(!) 3:45, 4:10, 5:30, 7:10, 7:45, 9:30, 10:30
BUG (R) (!) 4:30, 7:20, 9:40
SHREK THE THIRD (PG)
(!) 4:25, 5:00, 5:20, 7:15, 7:30, 8:15, 9:25, 9:45, 10:10
28 WEEKS LATER (R) 5:25, 9:50
SPIDER-MAN 3 (PG-13)
(!) 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:55
THE NAMESAKE (PG-13) 7:35
BLACKBOOK (R) 4:00, 6:45, 9:35

CINEMA ARTS THEATRE
9650 Main St., Fairfax 703-978-6991
www.cinemaartstheatre.com
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END (PG-13)
9:30 am, 9:45 am, 12:40, 1:00, 3:50, 4:15, 7:10, 8:00, 10:10
PARIS, JE T'AIME (R)
9:40 am, 12:10, 2:35, 5:05, 7:50, 10:05
THE WAITRESS (PG-13)
10:05 am, 12:20, 2:45, 4:50, 7:40, 9:45
AWAY FROM HER (PG-13)
9:50 am, 12:05, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50
THE VALET (PG-13)
10:10 am, 12:15, 2:40, 4:45, 7:20, 9:15

CONSOLIDATED THEATRES KINGSTOWNE 16
5910 Kingstowne Towne Center
Alexandria, Va. 703-822-4956
*SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT/NO PASSES
***PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END (PG-13)**
10:35, 11:05, 11:45, 12:30, 1:15, 2:15, 2:45, 3:30, 4:15, 5:00, 6:05, 6:30, 7:15, 8:00, 8:45, 9:45, 10:15, 10:45
***BUG (R)**
12:40, 4:00, 7:50, 10:40
***WAITRESS (PG-13)**
12:20, 4:05, 7:20, 10:10
***SHREK THE THIRD (PG)**
10:30, 11:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:50, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 3:15, 3:55, 4:30, 4:50, 5:45, 6:20, 7:00, 7:30, 8:15, 8:55, 9:30, 10:00
SPIDER-MAN 3 (PG-13)
10:45, 12:15, 1:50, 3:45, 5:15, 7:40, 8:30, 10:45
DISTURBIA (PG-13)
3:40, 9:10
FRACTURE (R)
1:00, 6:25
GEORGIA RULE (R)
10:30, 1:05, 6:40, 10:05
28 WEEKS LATER (R)
10:50, 1:20, 7:10, 10:20

DISTRICT
LANDMARK'S E street CINEMA
E St. at 11th St. NW • (202) 452-7672
Moviefone (301 or 202) 333-3456 #781
BARGAIN MATINEES BEFORE 6 PM ♿
ONCE (R)
11:00, 11:30, 1:00, 1:30, 3:05, 3:35, 5:10, 5:40, 7:15, 7:45, 9:20, 9:50
PARIS, JE T'AIME (R)
11:05, 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40
JINDABYNE (R)
10:45, 1:35, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45
RED ROAD (NR)
11:20, 2:05, 4:50, 7:30, 9:55
THE WAITRESS (PG-13)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:20, 9:35
AWAY FROM HER (PG-13)
11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:10, 9:30
FAY GRIM (R)
11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:25, 10:00

PHOENIX THEATRES UNION STATION 9
Metro's Red Line
202-842-4455
Advance Ticketing Available at www.phoenixtheatres.com
Matinee price for all shows before 4 pm Fri-Sun/holidays & before 6 pm Mon-Thu
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END (PG-13)
11:00, 11:30, 2:45, 3:15, 6:30, 7:00, 10:15, 10:30
BUG (R)
8:00, 10:25
SHREK THE THIRD (PG)
12:15, 12:45, 1:15, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:45, 5:15, 5:45, 7:15, 7:35, 9:35, 9:45
28 WEEKS LATER (R)
8:15, 10:45
SPIDER-MAN 3 (PG-13)
11:15, 11:45, 2:25, 2:55, 6:15, 9:30

FAMILY-FRIENDLY FILMS
Reviews of new kid- and family-oriented films
Family Filmgoer, Fridays in Weekend

Get fit
Tuesdays in Express
A weekly section about how to look and feel and be your best.
express
A publication of The Washington Post
fit is... health | fitness | nutrition | grooming | beauty | fashion | relationships | and much more
XX142c 2x1.5

Drive you.
"Cars" can put you in the right wheels. Wednesdays.
express
X017b 3x.5

Television



POWER OF PAUL: Natalie Portman makes a cameo as a ghost in the video for Paul McCartney's new single, "Dance Tonight." Portman plays a futurist electronic ghost who is summoned by the sound of McCartney's mandolin.

ON TV THIS WEEKEND

LATE TO THE PARTY

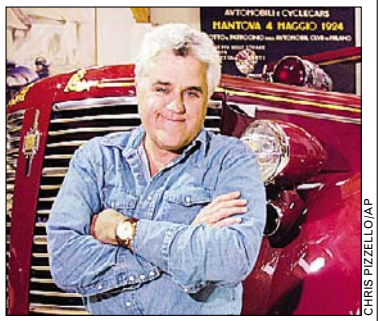
Friday night marks the 15th anniversary of Jay Leno's ascension to host of **THE TONIGHT SHOW** (11:35 p.m., NBC). According to an agreement announced to some fanfare in 2004, Leno will hand off "The Tonight Show" to Conan O'Brien in 2009. There was a time when that date seemed like a long way off, a futuristic date associated with jetpacks and trips to Jupiter, but in TV terms, 2009 is just around the corner. Leno's guests tonight include Dennis Miller, Ross the Intern and Dwight Yoakam.

EAT WHILE YOU WATCH

The phenomenon of mindless eating takes center stage on **20/20** (Fri., 10 p.m., ABC). John Stossel interviews food science professor Brian Wansink, who argues that we are no longer eating out of hunger but because of visual cues. On a similar theme, the program also looks at the new trend in premium vodkas. Do they really taste better? Or are we attracted to their fancy bottles?

A CAREER HIGHLIGHT

Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson hosts the **2007 TAURUS WORLD STUNT AWARDS** (Fri., 10:30 p.m., AMC). Among others, Taurus will honor Gerard Butler, star of "300," with the action movie star of the year award. While playing King Leonidas, Butler did many of his own stunts.



CHRIS PIZZELLO/AP

STILL ON TV: Jay Leno celebrates 15 years on "The Tonight Show" on Friday.

SO VERY, VERY BAD

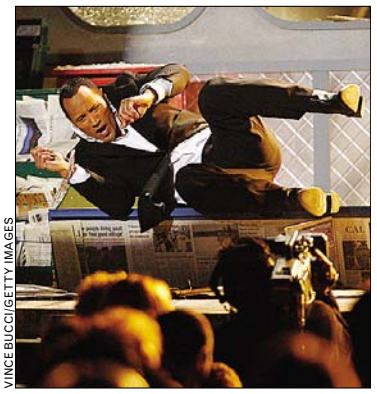
Bird flu is no laughing matter, but **PANDEMIC** (Fri., 8 p.m., Saturday, Hallmark) is a hoot. It may be filled with scenes of death and disease plaguing man, bird and beast, but you won't be able to take your eyes off the cast. This is, after all, a film starring Tiffani Thiessen as Dr. Kayla Martin, an elite doctor in charge of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The former star of "Beverly Hills 90210" and "Two Guys, A Girl and A Pizza Place" has to deliver a lot of very bad news when an airliner from Australia lands in Los Angeles carrying a dead surfer who appears to have died from bird flu. A strangely cast thriller with a predictable plot, "Pandemic" is an oddly comforting movie. It's reassuring that they still make TV movies this bad.

THE DAMAGE DONE

Based on Dee Brown's 1971 best-selling and influential book, **BURY MY HEART AT WOUNDED KNEE** (Sun., 9 p.m., HBO) examines the end game in the wars between Western Indian tribes and the U.S. government between the defeat of Gen. Custer at Little Big Horn in 1876 and the last of the Indian battles in 1890. A TV epic of both grand historical sweep and remarkably intimate focus, "Wounded Knee" shows how the efforts of benevolent white Americans to educate, assimilate and Christianize Indians was as damaging as military action.

HOLIDAY SING-ALONG

Gary Sinise ("CSI: New York") and Joe Mantegna ("The Simpsons Movie") return to co-host the **2007 NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY CONCERT** (Sun., 8 p.m., PBS). Scheduled performers and presenters include Natalie Cole, Josh Turner, Dianne Wiest, Jimmy Smits and the National Symphony Orchestra under the direction of maestro Erich Kunzel. KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)



VINCE BUCCI/GETTY IMAGES

NOMINATE ME!: The Rock will be hosting the Taurus World Stunt Awards.

5.25.07		6:00 PM	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
LOCAL CHANNELS	WRC 4	News (N) CC		NBC Nightly News	Access Hollywood	1 vs. 100 CC		Law & Order: Criminal Intent CC		Law & Order "Fame" CC		News (N) CC	Tonight Show
	WTTG 5	Seinfeld CC	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	Seinfeld CC	★★ "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider" (2001) (PA) Angelina Jolie, Iain Glen. CC				News (N)		News (N)	Every-Raymond
	WJLA 7	News (N) CC	ABC Wld News	Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	America's Funniest Home Videos		National Bingo Night (iTV) (N) CC		20/20 CC		News (N) CC	(:35) Nightline (N)
	WUSA 9	News (N) CC	Evening News	News	Entertainment	Ghost Whisperer "The Night We Met"		Close to Home "Legacy" CC		NUMB3RS "Brutus" CC		News (N) CC	Late Show
	WDCA 20	Judge Judy CC	Judge Joe Brown	Scrubs CC	Scrubs CC	MLB Baseball Washington Nationals at St. Louis Cardinals. From Busch Stadium in St. Louis. (Live)						★★ "Why Do Fools Fall in Love"	
	WMPT 22	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)		Business Rpt.	State Circle	Washington Week	NOW (N) CC	Bill Moyers Journal (N) CC		Masterpiece Theatre "Under the Greenwood Tree"			Smart Travels
	WETA 26	BBC World News	Business Rpt.	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)		Washington Week	Inside Wash.	Bill Moyers Journal (N) CC		NOW (N) CC	★★★ "The Slanted Screen" (2006)		Charlie Rose (N)
	WHUT 32	White House	Tavis Smiley	BBC World News	Moneywise	Evening Exch	To the Contrary	History Detectives CC		BBC World News	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) CC	
	WDCW 50	My Wife and Kids	My Wife and Kids	Friends CC	Friends CC	WWE Friday Night SmackDown! (N) CC				Will & Grace	Will & Grace	Sex and the City	Sex and the City
BASIC CABLE	A&E	Cold Case Files Englishwoman shot.		Cold Case Files CC		CSI: Miami "Cop Killer" CC		CSI: Miami "One Night Stand" CC		Intervention "Mike and James" CC		Intervention "Trent" CC	
	Animal	The Crocodile Hunter CC		The Planet's Funniest Animals CC		Divine Canine	It's Me or the Dog	Growing Up... "Elephant" CC		Animal Cops Houston Matted coat.		The Planet's Funniest Animals CC	
	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live (N) CC			College Hill CC	★★ "Lockdown" (2000, Drama) Richard T. Jones, Gabriel Casseus. CC				Ballers CC		Jamie Foxx	Jamie Foxx
	Bravo	★★ "Hard to Kill" (1990, Action) Steven Seagal, Kelly LeBrock. CC				★★ "Waterworld" (1995, Science Fiction) Kevin Costner, Dennis Hopper. A loner navigates a future world.						★★ "Waterworld" (1995)	
	Comedy	Scrubs CC	Scrubs CC	Scrubs CC	Scrubs CC	Chris Rock: Bigger & Blacker Stand-up comedy. CC			Com.-Presents	Bonnie McFarlane	Com.-Presents	Com.-Presents	Com.-Presents
	Court	Hollywood Heat	Masterminds	Cops CC	Cops CC	Inside "Supermax"		Forensic Files	Forensic Files	The Investigators (N)		Dunne: Power, Privilege & Justice	
	Discovery	How It's Made	How It's Made	I Shouldn't Be Alive "Shipwrecked"		I Shouldn't Be Alive		Man vs. Wild Surviving in the Alps.		Deadliest Catch		Stunt Junkies	Stunt Junkies
	DISCH	Code Blue "Medicine and Miracles"		Impact: Stories of Survival CC		Critical Hour CC		Dr. G: Medical Examiner CC		Mystery ER CC		Critical Hour CC	
	Disney	Life With Derek	That's So Raven	Hannah Montana	The Suite Life	Hannah Montana	Cory in the House	★★ "Cadet Kelly" (2002) Hilary Duff, Christy Carlson Romano. CC				The Suite Life	That's So Raven
	E!	50 Most Shocking Celebrity Scandals		E! News (N)	The Daily 10 (N)	50 Most Shocking Celebrity Scandals		50 Most Shocking Celebrity Scandals		The Soup (N)	Girl Next Door	E! News	The Daily 10
	FX	King of the Hill	King of the Hill	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	The Shield Shane crosses the line.	
	HGTV	Look What I Did!	Extreme Homes	If Walls Could	House Hunters	Designed to Sell	Buy Me	24 Hour Design	Curb Appeal (N)	House Hunters	House Hunters	Parents House	FreeStyle (N)
	Family	7th Heaven "The One Thing" CC		Smallville "Legacy" CC		★ "Head Over Heels" (2001) Monica Potter, Freddie Prinze Jr. CC				Whose Line?	Whose Line?	The 700 Club CC	
	History	Modern Marvels: Shotguns CC		Modern Marvels: Hunting Gear CC		Sherman's Total War Tactics Georgia.		Dogfights: The Greatest Air Battles Four famous air battles. CC				Mail Call CC	
	Lifetime	Reba CC	Reba CC	Still Standing	Still Standing	Reba CC	Reba CC	"To Have and to Hold" (2006) Justine Bateman, Derek Hamilton. CC				Desperate Housewives "Guilty"	
	MTV	Next New dates.	Next	Discover-Video	Adv. Hollyhood	Gym Class Lv	Run's House	Run's House	Run's House	★ "Pootie Tang" (2001) Lance Crouther, Jennifer Coolidge. Premiere.			
	NICK	Jimmy Neutron	Jimmy Neutron	Fairly OddParents	Jimmy Neutron	★★ "Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius" (2001) Voices of Megan Cavanagh.				Home Videos	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince
	SCIFI	Stargate SG-1 "Serpent's Song"		Heroes CC		Stargate SG-1 "Line in the Sand"		"Lake Placid 2" (2007, Horror) John Schneider, Sam McMurray.				★ "Shark Attack 2" (2000, Action)	
	SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation CC		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		UFC Fight Night				Ultimate Fighting Championship 71	
	TBS	Seinfeld CC	Seinfeld CC	Every-Raymond	Every-Raymond	★★★ "The School of Rock" (2003) Jack Black. An unemployed guitarist poses as a teacher.					(:40) Friends	(:10) Friends	King of Queens
	TLC	Property Ladder CC		Take Home Chef	Take Home Chef	Making the Cut School supplies. (N)		What Not to Wear Film archivist. (N)		What Not to Wear "Lauri" CC		What Not to Wear Film archivist.	
	TNT	Law & Order "Marathon"		Law & Order "Ego" CC (DVS)		★★★ "Seven" (1995) Brad Pitt. A killer dispatches his victims via the Seven Deadly Sins. CC					★★ "The Gift" (2000, Suspense) Cate Blanchett. CC		
	USA	Law & Order: Criminal Intent CC		Law & Order: Criminal Intent CC		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Monk Natalie asks for Monk's help.		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		House "The Jerk" CC	
	VHI	I Love the '90s: Part Deux "1993"		I Love the '90s: Part Deux "1994"		I Love the '90s: Part Deux "1995"		I Love the '90s: Part Deux "1996"		Maxim Hot 100 Celebrity women.		Best Week Ever	Celebrity Fit Club
SPANL	TELEM	Daniela (N)	Noti-Telemndo	Dame Chocolate (N)		Marina (N)		Zorro - La Espada y la Rosa (N)		La Esclava Isaura		Noti-Telemndo	Titulares y Mas
	UNIV	Que Locura	Noticiero Univ	Duelo de Pasiones		La Fea Más Bella (N)		Destilando Amor		Nuestra Belleza Latina, Al Destape		Primer Impacto	Noticiero Univ.
SPORTS	ESPN	SportsCenter (Live) CC			College Softball NCAA Super Regional -- Florida vs. Texas A&M. (Live) CC				Baseball Tonight (Live)			SportsCenter (Live) CC	
	ESPN2	IndyCar Racing	NASCAR Now	MLL Lacrosse Boston Cannons at Long Island Lizards. (Live)				Boxing Friday Night Fights. From Washington, D.C. (Live) CC				Boxing: 1988 de Leon vs. Holyfield	
	CSN	Washington	SportsNite CC	College Softball ACC Tournament Game 8 -- Teams TBA. From Jacksonville, Fla. (Live)						SportsNite (Live) CC		International Fight League (Taped)	
NEWS	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight CC		The Situation Room		Paula Zahn Now CC		Larry King Live CC		Anderson Cooper 360 CC			
	FNC	Special Report (Live) CC		The Fox Report With Shepard Smith		The O'Reilly Factor (Live) CC		Hannity & Colmes (Live) CC		On the Record-Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor	
	MSNBC	Tucker		Hardball CC		Countdown With Keith Olbermann		MSNBC Investigates		MSNBC Investigates		Crime & Punishment CC	
MOVIES	AMC	★★ "The Quick and the Dead" (1995, Western) Sharon Stone. 'R'				★★ "Conan the Barbarian" (1982, Adventure) Arnold Schwarzenegger, James Earl Jones. 'R'					2007 Taurus World Stunt Awards (N)		
	TCM	(:15) ★★ "Ride, Vaquero" (1953, Western) Robert Taylor, Ava Gardner. 'NR'				★★ "Big Jake" (1971, Western) John Wayne. Premiere. 'PG-13'				★★★ "The Cowboys" (1972, Western) John Wayne, Bruce Dern. 'GP'			
	HBO	★★ "Cheaper by the Dozen 2" (2005) Steve Martin. 'PG'			(:45) ★★ "The Matrix Revolutions" (2003, Science Fiction) Keanu Reeves. 'R' CC					Entourage CC	Entourage CC	Real Time With Bill Maher CC	
	MAX	(5:15) "Star Wars: Episode II -- Attack of the Clones"			(:35) ★★★ "Star Wars: Episode III -- Revenge of the Sith" (2005) Ewan McGregor. 'PG-13' CC					★★★★ "Star Wars" (1977, Science Fiction) Mark Hamill. 'PG' CC			
	SHOW	(5:00) ★★★ "Pretty Woman" (1990)		★★★ "The Terminator" (1984) Arnold Schwarzenegger. iTV. 'R' CC				The Tudors (iTV) Henry's petition.		Penn & Teller	Penn & Teller	American Heroes	★ 10th and Wolf
	TMC	(5:10) ★★ "Blind Horizon" (2004) 'R'		(6:50) ★★★ "Blood Simple" (1984) John Getz. 'R'		★★ "The Honeymooners" (2005) Cedric the Entertainer.				★ "I Got the Hook-Up" (1998) Master P. 'R' CC			Undiscovered
	STARZ!	(5:45) ★★ "The Matador" (2005) Pierce Brosnan. 'R'			★★ "Stay Alive" (2006) Frankie Muniz. 'PG-13' CC			★★ "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest" (2006) Johnny Depp. 'PG-13' CC					Benchwarmers
	ENCORE	Wild America 'PG'	(:35) ★★ "Chicken Little" (2005) Voices of Zach Braff.			★★★ "Hitch" (2005, Romance-Comedy) Will Smith. 'PG-13' CC				★★ "An Unfinished Life" (2005, Drama) Robert Redford. 'PG-13' CC			

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CHILDCARE — Childcare Center seeks warm, dynamic, energetic Teachers. Experience & leadership quality needed. Takoma Park/Silver Spring. Call: 301-589-0613 or Fax resume: 301-270-8359

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Development

Coordinator, Corporate Alliances
USO World Headquarters
Arlington, VA

USO, non-profit org. serving military members and their families seeks to fill this Coordinator position for the Development department. The incumbent will coordinate the flow of information within & outside of the dept while providing admin support to various corporate fundraising activities, specifically to the VP of Corporate Alliances.

Responsibilities include: conducting initial review of on-line sponsorship inquiries including in-kind donations; register, plan & represent USO at mission related tradeshows & conferences; prepare presentation materials & reports as needed; track corporate revenue & expense items; compose & prepare correspondence including thank you letters, etc.; maintain corporate file plan & documentation; update & oversee the maintenance of donor database; make travel arrangements; other related duties.

Minimum requirements: Bachelor's degree in related field, significant exp may be substituted; fully competent in the use MS applications, including Raiser's Edge; accurate typing skills; excellent written & verbal skills; previous exp in similar role or in a secretarial/admin support; military knowledge preferred.

Send resumes & salary reqs by 5/31 to: jobs@uso.org or fax to 703-908-6401. No phone calls please. E/O/E. AA.

DRIVERS & HELPERS WANTED

Nat'l moving Co now hiring. Lifting/loading nec. Clean DMV & bkgd check req'd. 3yrs exp in the moving industry. Up to $17/hr. Call 240-318-0590

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Engineering

Engineering Technician (CAD)

The National Gallery of Art seeks to hire a full-time individual experienced in the use of Computer Aided Design (CAD) for the creation of drawings and the management of electronic assets. The individual shall have a working knowledge of mechanical, electrical, civil and/or architectural fields and shall have the ability to estimate construction costs and prepare designs. Annual salary up to $72,421.

U.S. citizenship is required. For specific application information and instructions go to http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/a9nga.asp. The vacancy announcement number is 07-36 and the deadline for applications is 6/1/07.

Entertainment Department Positions (2)
USO World Headquarters
Arlington, VA

USO, non-profit org. serving military members & their families seeks to fill ***two*** positions in the Entertainment dept. The dept. coordinates celebrity tours for the troops to boost morale. The positions are Entertainment Assistant & Coordinator, Entertainment. Both provide a wide range of support to the department. The Assistant works closely with the Director of Celebrity Recruitment to provide administrative support in all aspects of celebrity recruitment, while the Coordinator works with the Director of Entertainment to coordinate entertainment related activities, ie. prep of tour related materials, reports, etc..

Minimum requirements:
Assistant: Bachelors degree preferred, admin exp may be substituted; previous exp in admin support role; strong proficiency in MS Office to include PowerPoint, Excel, & Access; demonstrated ability to be proactive, manage multiple tasks & meet deadlines; excellent written & verbal communication skills; strong customer service & professional phone manner.
Coordinator: Bachelors degree required; exp. managing multiple tasks & projects that are deadline driven; extremely proficient in MS Office, database management; ability to work flexible hours as needed; strong organizational skills.

Send resumes & salary reqs. no later than 5/25 to: jobs@uso.org or fax to 703-908-6401. No phone calls please. E/O/E. AA.

JOBS

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Reference job title in the subject line.
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Experience in courier/trucking required. Full Benefits/Health, Great Pay. Fax: 1-866-433-1509

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Marketing

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As a member of our Marketing Research Department, produce industry-specific sales strategy presentations and media recommendations that match Washington Post Advertising products with client target audiences and objectives. Requires strong data analysis skills, ability to communicate media research concepts and technical data to lay people both graphically and in written reports, excellent writing skills, and Bachelor's degree. Expertise in Excel and PowerPoint strongly preferred. For more info: **www.washpostco.com.** Send a cover letter and resume to talentsearch@washpost.com. Subject line: **MPEXP/JT**

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Marketing

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JOBS

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2 openings in our Rockville location. Last year my top 2 Loan Officers took home over 1 million dollars. If you think its time for a change please call 301-838-2023 for an interview.

NANNY—M-F, Live-in/out, will sponsor VISA, cleaning, refs, need transp. 703-281-7904.

Non-Profit

Assistant program director need for small non-profit targeting inner-city female youth ages 10-19. Must able to drive a 12 passenger van must posses creativity and vision, as well as good clerical and communication skills. Email ylot_1@msn.com. 202-332-7184.

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Optician/Frame Sales

No nights, no wknds. Exper. necess. Upscale boutique within upstairs private optometric office. 18th and K St. Fax 202-331-8533.

PAINTER—Must have 2 years exper. Must be US citizen & be able to pass background check. Outdoor work. Must have transportation. Job located in Ft. Meade, MD. $24.60/hr. Call 703-569-2422.

Personnel

DRIVERS AND SALES STAFF

Staff Recruitment World Wide City Seeing Company (www.city-ss.com) is looking for Bus Drivers and Sales Staff to work in Washington DC. Interested please send your resume to j.zambrano@city-ss.com or call for an interview to 202 615 3034.

PEST CONTROL TECHS

Trainees or exper. positions avail. to serious career minded indiv. Job offers growth opport., excel. earning potential & benefits.
Apply in person w/ DMV report. Better Termite & Pest Control, 2647 Duke St,. Alex., VA 703-683-2000

PRINTING
Needed: 1 person for Bindery, Delivery & Back-up Press Operator. Exper. necessary. 703-525-2500

Property Management

LEASING

Lg Apt. Comm. In Falls Church, Va looking for a leasing superstar, for our fast-paced office. Prior leasing or real estate background required. P/T only. Pls incl. sal. req'd. Fax resume (703)641-0038

Property Management

MAINTENANCE

Lg Apt Comm. Falls Church, VA Seeking Certified HVAC Tech, experienced in all aspects of apt maintenance. F/T w/benes. Background ck req'd. Interviews: Call betwn 10am to 4pm, Mon thru Thurs. Ms. Rajack.(703)560-7451.

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Restaurant

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Retail

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Retail

Brides by Demetrios, a growing national designer in bridal apparel, is seeking FT Management and FT/PT Sales Associates for our Macy's Briday Salon by Demetrios in Macy's Galleria Mall, Tysons Corner. Fax resume to 212-967-1693 or Email alex.cutrone@demetriosgroup.com

Restaurant

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Retail

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Sales

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Sales

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Sales

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Sales

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Cars.com

You will be part of the Cars. com advertising sales team. You will sell packaged online advertising solutions on cars.com to independent used car dealerships in MD through in-person sales presentations. Your uncapped incentive will be directly tied with your ability to aggressively grow new revenue in your territory. You are technologically savvy, with strong internet skills and understanding. If you have the hunger and desire to make a name for yourself in sales, send your resume to talentsearch@washpost.com, Attn: CAREXP/JT. More info: www.washpostco.com.

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Sales

Inside/Outside Advertising Sales (with a Future)
Real Estate

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express

A publication of The Washington Post

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Qualified individuals with photography or photo editing background please submit a resume, cover letter and salary reqs.: expressdesign@readexpress.com. Applications can also be sent to Express. P.O. Box 17370, Arlington, VA, 22216, attn. Photo Job.

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Classifieds

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Must possess DC SPO & be able to work evenings and some weekends. Must have at least 5 yrs. of exp supervising 15+. Must have exp in scheduling & disciplinarian reports. Knowledge of Excel and MS Word a must. Prior law enforcement and military a plus. Starting salary is $35k per year with room for growth. Fax no more than (3) page resume to 301-218-9359

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The Family Services Dept. at Catholic Charities has an opening for a FT Psychotherapist to work in regional offices in Sterling & Leesburg. Bi-lingual Spanish a strong preference. Collegial, interdisciplinary environment. VA licensure eligibility (LCSW or LPC) a requirement as well as availability two evening per week. Send resume to David Cavanaugh, LCSW email:
d.cavanaugh@ccda.net or fax 703-841-2752 EOE

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STUFF

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antique dresser—$125.00, Leesburg, VA, 703-777-8740Dark wood three drawer dresser with attached mirror. Needs TLC.

ARL—Fri/Sat 9am-2pm. Everything must go: furn., glassware, antiques. 19 S. Garfield St. 22204

ARLINGTON S. - YARD SALE — 2013 S. Lynn St., Sat., 5/26, 8am: Multi Family Sale. Antiques, furn., Asian screen, dragon rug, art, clothes $1-$5., Radkos, etc

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BETH— Huge Yard Sale. Sat 9am-12noon. 7807 Honeybee Ct. Furn, electronics, clothing, toys, etc.

BICYCLE SHOP CLEARANCE—Bikes & Acc...703-730-0303 VSBsports.com

BOB DYLAN
Wanted: original 1963-66 concert posters. Will pay $10,000! 1-310-346-1965

Burke—YARD SALE-Saturday,May 26 8:00AM-12:-00PM, 9912 Lakepointe Drive, BURKE/FAIRFAX

CARPET SALE
Starting at $1.59/s.f. Hardwood floors, $6.99/s.f. Price includes installation. 301-341-2499

CHEVERLY—Moving Sale! 6300 Jocelyn Pl. 9-2 Sat. Everything Must Go! Antiques, crystal, clothing, etc.

CLOTHING RACKS—Used Clothing racks, Good Cond, 3 avail, $50/each. Call 571-243-7682

COMPUTER-APPLE 17" POWERBOOK— G4, 1.67 GHZ, 120 GB HD w/super drive $1200/obo. 2 Flat Panel TVs; 32" & 26" LCD/HDTV $715 ea/obo. Sony DVD/CD plyr, hold 400 DVDs w/remote control $500/obo. Call 301-390-1545

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Fairfax Station—5/26, 8 AM-12, 9809 Viewcrest Dr, Fx Station 703-250-6393, Lee Chapel and Hwy 123 Primitive antiques/furniture, Americana items, hsehld goods, clothing, no kids items, good prices

FT. WASH—Sat. 5/26, come early, 11901 Autumnwood Ln. Vintage clothing. Other items, etc.

FURN—Flat TV w/ Bose spkrs, Bed w/ Matt & Bedding, Sm DR tbl, Loveseat. Call 571-329-1650

GRANITE SALE—$28 per sq ft. Sat, May 12 & 26. Beautiful color selection. **301-627-7630**

HARDWOOD FLOORING— Brazilian cherry, 3 1/4 inch thick. $2.50/sqft, 2145sqft. Will separate. Call 703-875-2215

KITCHEN CABINETS— High end, solid wood, maple, all sizes.
Call 703-221-2906.

LANHAM/8700 Magnolia Dr. (20706) — YARD SALE - SAT. 5/26, 9a-3p: Glass, hsewares, furn., Nippon, sets of Fostoria & Franciscan, '82 Buick, etc.

LARGO—Sat 5/26 10-2. Hsehld items, Furn & More. Extremely low Prices! 703 Castle Wood Pl. (20774)

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MCLEAN—5/27, 8:30am-12:30pm, rain or shine. Hsehld. items, tools, etc. 5900 Calla Dr. off Brookside Rd.

McLean—ESTATE SALE June 2nd & 3rd, 10am to 2pm, 8410 Old Dominion Drive, McLean, VA. Beautiful high quality furniture in many styles: biedermeier, transitional, country & contemporary. Pieces include chest of drawers, rocking chairs, mirrors, sectional sofa, cannonball beds, tables, organ/piano, carpets & more.

MECHANIC SET—Snap on Mack tools, Many hand tools, Air compr, 2 sets. $1500/OBO. 202-529-7147

Merrifield—Mid June: 8130 Heatherton Lane, Apt# 204, 703-424-8263. Sales: Sofa-cum-Bed,Beds/Mat, TV, Table/Chairs:Cheap!

Mount Vernon—May 26, 2007, 0800-1200, 1107 Neal Drive, 703 304 6318. HUGE SALE. Furn. lamps, toys, household. GW Pkwy to Collingwood.

MOVING SALE—Closets, DR set, Bed/Mattress, Baby Grande Piano, Office Desk. 301-655-2471

NW—Moving Sale. Sat May 26, 8-1pm. 1750 Poplar Ln. Off of 16th & Portal. Furn, hsehld gds, toys, etc.

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Classifieds

STUFF

Potomac—Large Estate/Moving Sale -9806 Meriden Rd. Out River,Left Persimmon Tree,Right Meriden. May 25th-26th,8am-2pm. Furniture,Electronics,Clothes,Toys,Area Rugs,Bikes,Table /Chairs,etc. Great stuff!!!

ROCKVILLE—Lg yard sale, dishes, clothes, rugs, everything for sale. Fri, Sat, Sun all day. 212 Crabb Ave.

ROLLLING STONES
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SOFA— ETHAN ALLEN. South Beach' sofa, Mint Cond, Black Leath, 83wx37dx34h $1400. 703-864-4017, Alex Va.

SPRINGFIELD/7925 Lake Pleasant Dr (22153) — YARD SALE - Sat. 5/26, 8am-1pm. Baby items, crafts, games, dolls, sports equip & misc items.

Stair Lift—Summit, perfect, AC, New $2250; asking $1200, if not sold, will donate. Manassas, VA, 703-365-0031.

TV—Panasonic 56" rear proj. HDTV. New in box. Very cheap at $1295. 301 439-4116

VINYL SIDING DBL/5 — Tan, 1/2 off orig price. Up to 100 sq. 301-831-4481

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703-920-8665 **www.ffgw.org**

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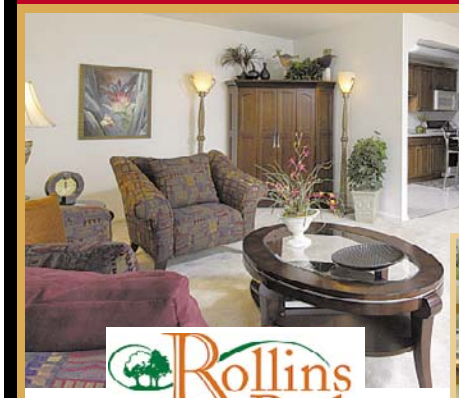


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ROLLS ROYCE '98 SILVER SPUR— 75K Miles. Showroom Condition!
$55,000. Call 540-364-0200

Subaru 2001 Legacy—$10,000;below KBB! grt cond, 41k, Blk, 4 dr, awd, keylss ent, mnrf, abs, airbg,gd gas mi, Mst sell! 202-248-1581

SUZUKI 2005 Katana 600—$5000.00, excellent cond, 8k mi, Blue, 703-690-6698

Toyota 2005 Sienna—$27,995 obo, excellent cond, 17K, white ext, tan leather int, 5 dr, htd seats, dvd, 703-626-0729

Toyota 2005 Sienna—$18500, good cond, 21k mi, nav, silver pearl ext, 5 dr, abs, air ps, pwr lck, air dr, 2029971301

TOYOTA '03 TACOMA S5 TRD—4WD, auto, silver, 48K, garage kept.
$17,500 obo. 703-495-8043

Toyota 2003 Tacoma—$16,999 obo, 55k mi, Silver ext, Gray int, 4 dr, alloy wheels, cd/cass/xm radio, 202-549-0920

TOYOTA 00 Camry— LE, auto., a/c, 4-dr, CD, cass., pw, pl, exc. cond., $6650. 703-760-9337

Toyota 1998 Camry—$5,400, excell cond, 82k, gray ext/int, 4 dr, automatic, pwr wind/locks, MD inspect Certificate 301-279-2428

Toyota 1998 Camry—$3300 obo, excellent cond, 139k mi, black ext, grey int, 4 dr, abs, air ps, pwr lck, Needs a little TLC. call (202)422-3773

Toyota 1996 Camry—$5995.00, excellent cond, 42k mi, Super White ext, Oak int, 5 dr, buckets, 301-379-5686

VESPA '06 Gran Turissimo—Classic Mint green; upgraded lthr seat & 2 matching helmets, only 21 test mis. $4750/obo. Call 202-492-3681

VW '00 PASSAT V6— Immac cond. 102K mi, fully loaded, heated lthr seats, 5 spd, manual trans. Must see. $7200/obo. Call 202-746-5242

46
WANTED
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New Test Program For Automobile Financing Special Allocation of Funds
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Laurel Kia Used Cars & Trucks

WE BUY JUNK CARS - $100
CALL 240-416-6286

WINNEBAGO '99, 35' ADVENTURER — 1 slide-out, 59K mi, excellent condition. Great vehicle for sabbatical get-away. $36,000. 703-914-9088

BOATS AND AVIATION

Beneteau Oceanis 36 CC 1998—$99,500, excellent cond, low eng hrs, white, 703-201-4404. Roomy 2 cabins, full galley. Let's SAIL!

Cape Dory Sloop 1981—$8,000, excellent cond, White, new roller furler and genoa jib 410-490-5024

Kayak Saddles—For Thule roof rack only. 2 sets. H2Go front, Rollercoaster rear. Exc. cond. $40 set or $70 both. Call Rod at 571-217-8283

REGAL '89 19'—Sleeps 3, holds 5, 4.3 V6, cabin. Must see. $4800 OBO 202-526-3344 aft 5pm

SeaRay 330EC 1997—$99,500, excellent cond, White & Gold Pkg, 571 244 6265, New Power 06, 5 yr. Warrranty, Gen, Air, Loaded

YAMAHA '99 WAVERUNNER 1200 —Jetski, 3 seater, good condition. $3800. 202-526-3344 aft 5pm

play su|do|ku

Look out

TRENDS, CULTURE, DISCOVERIES, IDEAS, PEOPLE

INSIDE

Stone plays auctioneer at Cannes | 46



Blog Log: We miss you, Kelly Clarkson | 44

Live Online: The high price of gasoline | 44

Help Wanted

Careers

Manufacturing jobs are getting harder to fill and easier to find

Michael Starr was laid off in mid-career from his factory job and found himself back in the classroom to upgrade his skills — for a new high-tech manufacturing environment struggling to find workers.

Working in industry today "is not like the old days: get a hammer and fix it," the 45-year-old said.

Starr was laid off Jan. 15 from his sheet-metal working job in suburban Medina, Ohio. He has enrolled in a Lorain County Community College program to take courses in computers, math, machining, industrial blueprint reading, advanced computerized numerical controlled milling and job-search and study skills.

When he showed up in class, "I was terrified, [like] training an old dog new tricks," he said.

The U.S. has shed 5 million manufacturing jobs in three decades, but higher-skill factory jobs are increasingly becoming unfilled as employers deal with applicants with poor reading and math abilities and a bad attitude about blue-collar work.

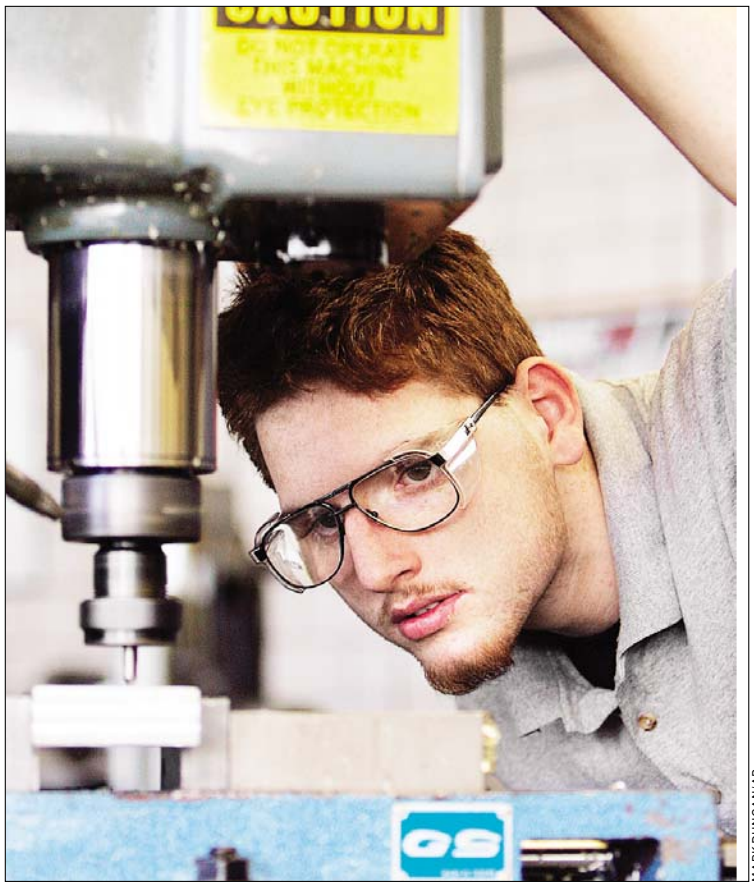
The National Association of Manufacturers says the skill shortages have hurt production and the ability to meet customer demands.

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York, in a report last year, predicted a continuing trend of lower-skilled jobs lost to foreign competition and automation and giving way to a smaller number of higher-skilled manufacturing jobs.

"There is a stereotype that manufacturing is a dead-end type of career, but that is totally opposite the truth," said Ronald Bullock, who runs Bison Gear and Engineering Corp. in St. Charles, Ill.

Bullock's expanding company has trouble finding workers who can read and do the math required for entry-level $10-per-hour jobs.

The picture is similar across much of the nation's industrial base, with the Bureau of Labor Statistics reporting a consistent increase over three years in the rate of vacant manufacturing jobs, going from the 1.5 percent range to about 2.5 percent, or one in 40 jobs vacant.



MARK DUNCAN/AP

Adam Fekete attends shop training at Max S. Hayes High School in Cleveland.

Adam Fekete, 17, hopes an innovative high school program in Cleveland will give him the 21st-century skills needed to become a third-generation blue-collar employee.

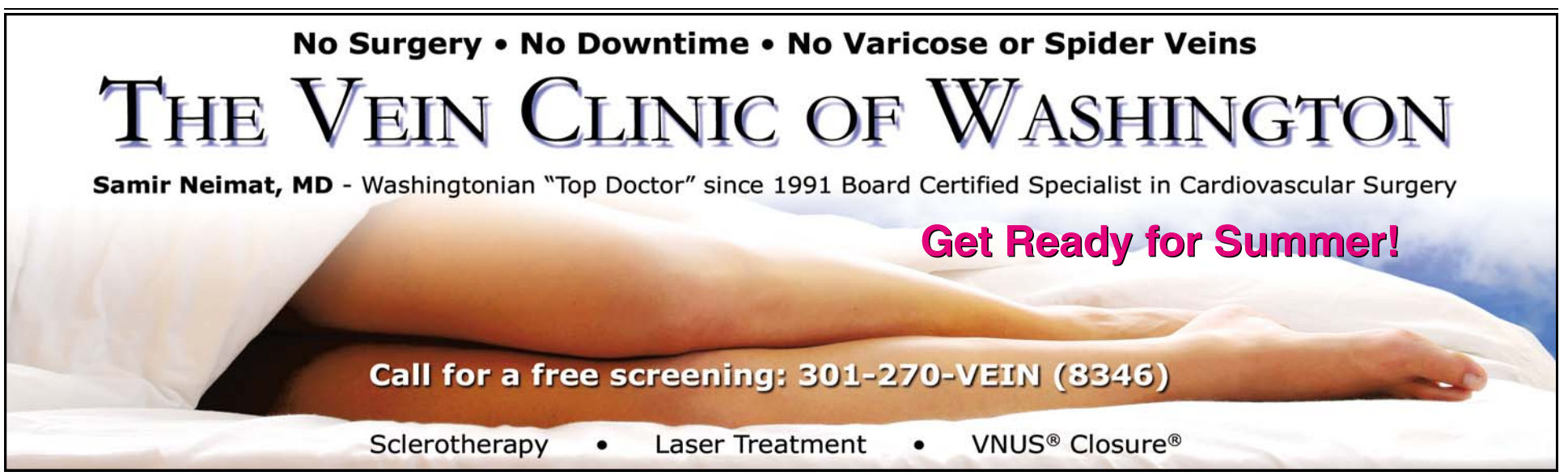
Fekete is one of 118 students enrolled in a manufacturing program at Max S. Hayes High School. The program has a rigorous curriculum, including calculus, chemistry, physics, robotics competitions and rotations in computer-aided design and drafting.

> "There is a stereotype that manufacturing is a dead-end type of career, but that is opposite the truth."
>
> **RONALD BULLOCK**, BISON GEAR CORP.

Work in manufacturing? "There's not too many people who want to do it," said Adam Story, a classmate of Fekete's.

A partner in the school program, WIRE-Net, tries to ease the transition for less-skilled workers to land a good-paying manufacturing job.

"There's a future [in manufactuing] but, again, you have to be smart. You can't sit on your high school diploma," said John P. Colm, president of WIRE-Net. "Manufacturing is far from dead. It's changing. Every part of our economy is changing." THOMAS J. SHEERAN (AP)



LOOKout Online

readexpress.com

site specifics



EATING AROUND

Finding a Wine

Wine shopping can be a tough task for those not versed in vino lingo. But two local restaurants are offering workshops to allow wine novices to ask questions without fear or shame. Express contributor Melissa McCart tells you where to go and what you'll find out. | ONLINE NOW



TRANSIT

Silver Spring Upgrade

After requests from nearby employers like the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association and Discovery Communications, Metro has approved the construction of a new south entrance at the Silver Spring Metro station. Get the details. | ONLINE NOW

FREE RIDE

Memorial Day Menu



Memorial Day means more than just endless traffic and seeing obnoxious relatives. If you're in D.C. this weekend, you can check out the National Memorial Day Parade or the Rolling Thunder motorcycle rally to honor our troops and veterans. Get our sampling of holiday destinations at readexpress.com. | COMING UP

comment board

"Iraq is the center of the war on terror on the propaganda front. The real fighting front is in too many locations for there to be a real center, although Iraq is one of the top locations. Either way, we cannot surrender anywhere!"

COMMENTER MR, RESPONDING TO THURSDAY'S POLL CENTER QUESTION, "DO YOU THINK IRAQ IS THE CENTER OF THE WAR ON TERROR?"



"The Fort Dix Six were thwarted by good old-fashioned police work. Sept. 11 also could have been thwarted if the FBI and CIA were allowed to move on the information they had."

COMMENTER SHANE, WHO ADDED, "THE SO-CALLED WAR ON TERRORISM IS WAGED AND WON MORE BY LAW ENFORCEMENT. WE DON'T NEED THE MILITARY FIGHTING THE WAR ON TERRORISM."

poll center

TODAY'S QUESTION

Will the $1 gas surcharge keep you away from D.C. cabs?

1. Yes
2. No

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Do you think Iraq is the center of the war on terror?

AS OF 5:30 P.M. THURSDAY. NOT A SCIENTIFIC POLL.

NO	YES
76%	24%

SEE HOW YOUR METRO STATION VOTED AT READEXPRESS.COM/POLLCENTER.PHP

Blog LOG

"[T]he customer service agent rolled her eyes at me and rudely blurted, 'So, you DON'T have the item to return?'"

SMASHGFUNK.BLOGSPOT.COM BOUGHT SOME WATERMELONS FROM COSTCO THAT TURNED OUT TO BE ROTTEN AND RAN INTO TROUBLE TRYING TO GET A REFUND.



KEVORK DJANSEZIAN/AP

"By the time they announced who won 'American Idol,' I didn't even care who won [because] I got to see my girl Kelly [Clarkson]."

JORDIN SPARKS WHO? **DAKOTAPIE.LIVEJOURNAL.COM** WATCHED WEDNESDAY'S FINALE OF "AMERICAN IDOL" AND WAS HAPPY WITH THE CAMEO APPEARANCE BY CLARKSON, PICTURED ABOVE.

"AS I GOT BACK onto the shuttle bus to take me back to the Foggy Bottom Metro stop, the driver had on NPR. It was talking about the war in Iraq. I turned to my friend and said, 'I wish he could just turn on classical music and let the moment last a little longer.'"

COLLEGEGRADREALWORLD.BLOGSPOT.COM TUNED THE WORLD OUT TEMPORARILY AT THE KENNEDY CENTER'S MILLENNIUM STAGE.

"[H]OW LONG can it be before we hear how the president has 'full confidence in Ms. Doan?"

EPLURIBUSONLINE.COM REACTS TO THE U.S. OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL'S REPORT THAT SAYS GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION CHIEF LURITA ALEXIS DOAN VIOLATED THE HATCH ACT.

"THE GOOD NEWS IS [the Iranians] haven't a clue about how to connect large numbers of centrifuges in order to produce enriched uranium on an industrial scale."

RIGHTWINGNUTHOUSE.COM TAKES A LOOK AT THE RECENT INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY REPORT ABOUT IRAN.

Live Online

High Gas Prices

JASON TOEWS, co-founder of GasBuddy.com, a network of more than 179 gas price information Web sites that help locate low gasoline prices, was online Thursday to explain why the price of gas is so high.

How high do prices have to go before people start to feel a pinch?
People seem to always feel a pinch with each rise in prices. When prices rise, consumers complain; however, when it falls back, it often does not return to levels as low as in the past, but consumers feel relief. This then sets the stage for the next increase to be higher than the last.

The price of a barrel of oil has been around $60 to $65 for more than a month, but gasoline has increased much more during this time. A barrel of oil should be about $85 dollars at today's price of gasoline. Why the recent change?
In the past four to six weeks, the price of gasoline has risen not so much due to the price of crude oil but a supply and demand imbalance that has been caused by multiple small disasters and technical problems at refineries across the U.S. during April. The result of these refinery problems has been a 7 to 10 percent deficit in the U.S.' refined gasoline reserves.

Everyone says gas in Europe is much higher than our current rates and that we should be grateful. Is that reasonable?
Actually, gas prices in Europe are much higher, up to $8 per gallon in U.S. dollars, but they are much more stable. The main difference is that due to the smaller areas of the European countries, they drive much less than the average person drives in the USA.

TODAY ON LIVE ONLINE: Godsmack front man Sully Erna discusses his new book on the band's road to a record contract at noon | **washingtonpost.com/liveonline.**

DO **EMBRACE WHAT THE INTERNET IS REALLY FOR:** Funny pictures of cats. The ever-so-addicting icanhazcheezburger.com, featured recently on Slate.com (so it's hip and brainy!), has a roster of amusing cat pictures and captions that seem like they've been written by sugar-addled 13-year-olds.

Look out

Bizarro | *Dan Piraro*

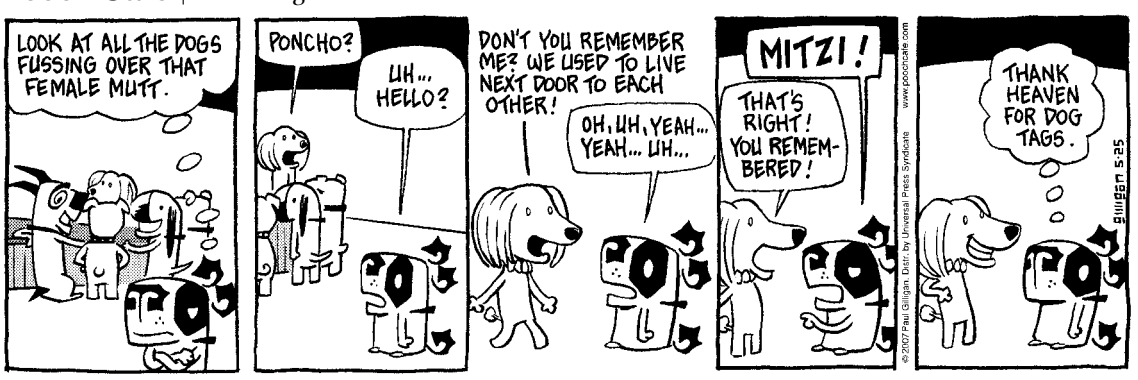


Cornered | *Mike Baldwin*

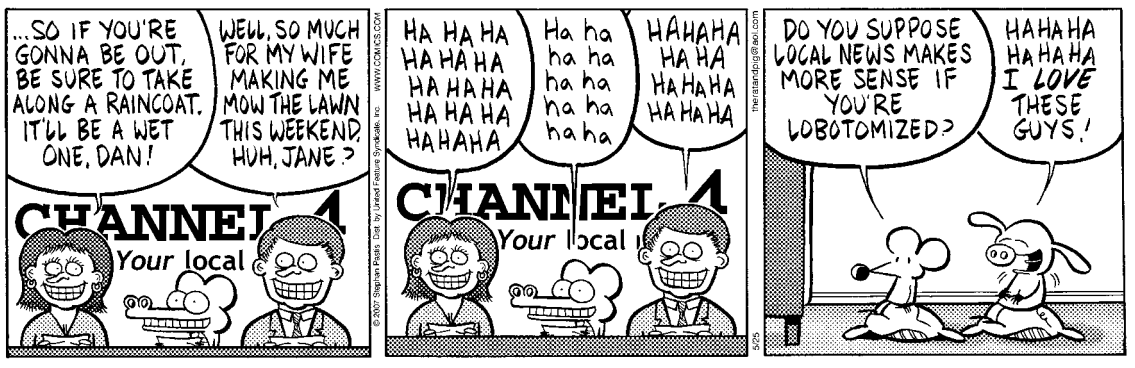


"He hated funerals. His last words were, 'Wake me up when it's over.'"

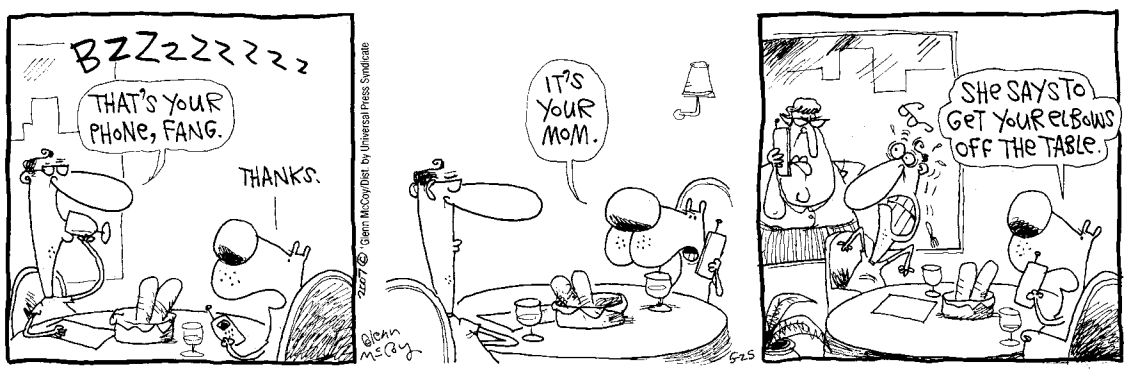
Pooch Cafe | *Paul Gilligan*



Pearls Before Swine | *Stephan Pastis*



The Duplex | *Glenn McCoy*



Horoscope

By Stella Wilder

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You'll have to work closely with others to make plans that can hold up to any changes in circumstance later on. Communicate openly.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Seek only those outlets that allow you to behave in a way that feels natural. If it adds to daily stress, it's not for you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You're likely to live up to your reputation as a home lover. You may even choose to forsake a professional opportunity to stay at home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Take care you're not trying to show off for someone who is actually better equipped to say and do the right things at this time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Your deepest feelings are nearing the surface at this time, and it's best for you to avoid any situations that may rub you the wrong way.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) It's been a long time since you had the chance to say what is on your mind with no risk of reprisals of any kind. You can really let go.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) A social gathering affords you a rare opportunity to do something you've been tempted to try for some time. Your support group can help you out.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You're not likely to stop once you get a taste of something you've resisted for some time. Take care you don't lose control and overindulge.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You're likely to hear from someone who owes you a great deal, but who now has an offer that can make everything even-Steven once again.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Your own curiosity is likely to lead you into a situation that proves, in very little time, to be too much for you. Back away quickly.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Be courteous at all times, and be sure to let others know just what you are doing—and, if you are asked, why. Be straight with everyone.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You may have a great deal of work to do, but more important than work is the chance to get together with a special friend.



President Kennedy, right, visits Cape Canaveral as the U.S. raced Russia to the moon.

Today in History

1787 The Constitutional Convention convenes in Philadelphia.

1895 Playwright Oscar Wilde is convicted of a morals charge in London; he was sentenced to two years in prison.

1935 Babe Ruth hits the 714th and final home run of his career, for the Boston Braves, in a game against the Pittsburgh Pirates.

1961 President Kennedy, addressing Congress, calls on the nation to work toward putting a man on the moon by the end of the decade.

1968 The Gateway Arch is dedicated in St. Louis.

1986 An estimated 7 million Americans participate in "Hands Across America," forming a line across the country to raise money for the nation's hungry and homeless.

1992 Jay Leno makes his debut as permanent host of NBC's "Tonight Show," succeeding Johnny Carson.

Look out | People



ROB CARR/AP

Just because sun visors exist doesn't mean you should actually wear them.

MONEY

Lawyer Sadly Turns Over Overflowing Quarter Jar

O.J. SIMPSON must give any money a Florida lawyer is holding for him to the family of Ronald Goldman to satisfy a multimillion-dollar wrongful death judgment, a judge has ruled. Attorney Leonardo D. Starke is believed to be holding about $3,500 for Simpson in a client trust account in Florida. (AP)

AWARDS

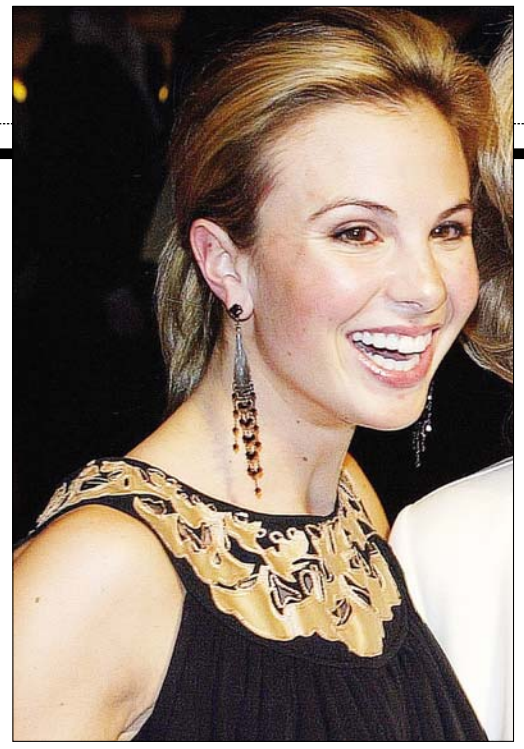
Bono's Mantel Shatters With Weight of Honors

BONO, who has brought worldwide attention to economic problems in Africa, will receive this year's Liberty Medal. The National Constitution Center's annual award honors individuals or organizations that "demonstrate leadership and vision in the pursuit of liberty of conscience or freedom from oppression, ignorance or deprivation." (AP)

SPATS

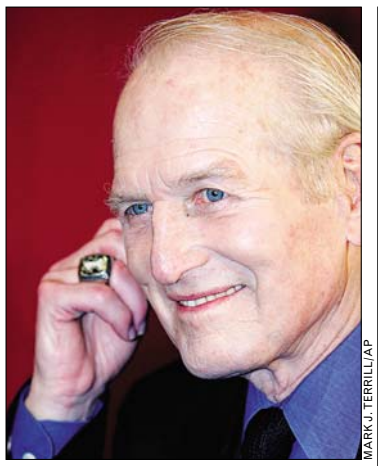
She Said, She Said

ROSIE O'DONNELL and **ELISABETH HASSELBECK'S** squabbling on "The View" escalated Wednesday. A discussion of the war in Iraq became heated when O'Donnell decried Hasselbeck for not defending her when media outlets said she'd called U.S. troops "terrorists." Responded Hasselbeck: "Do not call me a coward, because, No. 1, I sit here every single day, open my heart and tell people what I believe." (AP)





ERIC JAMISON/AP; MARY ALTAFFER/AP



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Salad dressing has well-prepared him for a new career in nuclear physics.

NUCLEAR

Then He Discovered Cold Fusion, Pronounced It 'Cool'

PAUL NEWMAN praised the Indian Point nuclear power facility in the New York suburbs after visiting the Buchanan, N.Y., facility on Monday. Newman praised the facility as an important part of the region's energy future because it doesn't produce greenhouse gases He also liked the security: "No Army or Navy base I've ever visited has been more armored, and I couldn't walk 30 feet inside the plant without swiping my key card to go through another security checkpoint." (AP)



PASCAL LE SEGRETAIN/GETTY IMAGES

SACRIFICE

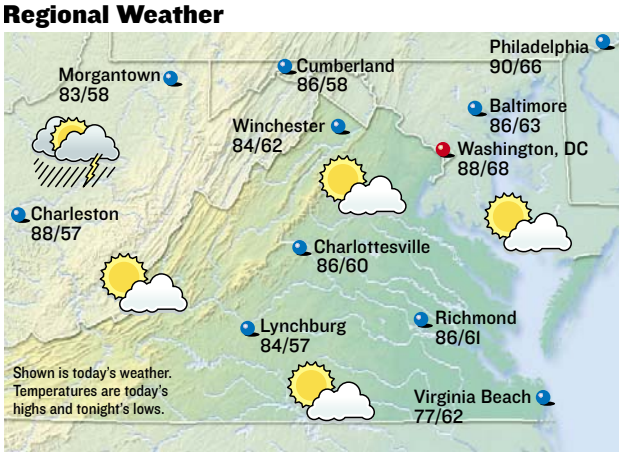
Actor George Clooney Takes One for the Team

SHARON STONE played auctioneer to raise money for AIDS research. An annual benefit soiree on the sidelines of the Cannes Film Festival raised $7 million for the American Foundation for AIDS Research. Stone, wearing a clingy silver dress, played hostess and fast-talking auctioneer for the night. When George Clooney and other cast members of "Ocean's Thirteen" came onstage to auction off a yacht vacation, Stone promised a bidder: "If you put up $350,000, George will kiss you." And he did. (AP)

5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area

Today	Tonight	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Mostly sunny, very warm	Mostly clear	Partly sunny, an afternoon t-storm	Partly sunny	Partly sunny, a t-storm possible	Partly sunny
88°	68°	86° / 65°	86° / 65°	84° / 65°	84° / 65°

Regional Weather



Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2007

Almanac

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Thur.

Temperature

High	79°
Low	57°
Normal high	78°
Normal low	58°
Average humidity	55%

Precipitation

24 hours ending 4 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	1.45"
Normal month to date	2.97"
Year to date	13.49"
Last year to date	10.96"
Normal year to date	15.18"

For up-to-the-minute weather, see:
washingtonpost.com/weather

Regional Forecast

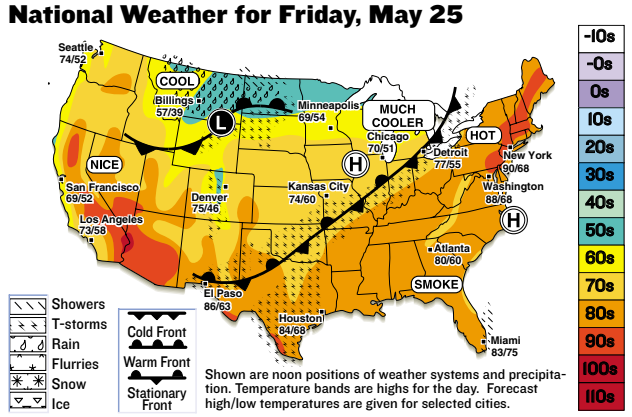
D.C. Metro: Today, mostly sunny, very warm. High 88. Wind southwest 6-12 mph. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 68. Wind southwest 4-8 mph.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today	5:48 a.m.
Sunset tonight	8:22 p.m.
Moonrise today	2:35 p.m.
Moonset today	2:30 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
May 31	June 8	June 14	June 22

National Weather for Friday, May 25



Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day. Forecast high/low temperatures are given for selected cities.

National Cities

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	80/60/s	81/59/s
Boston	90/66/s	84/58/s
Chicago	70/51/pc	72/55/t
Dallas	82/65/t	82/66/t
Denver	75/46/pc	74/51/pc
Honolulu	86/74/pc	87/73/s
Los Angeles	73/58/pc	73/58/pc
Miami	83/75/pc	84/75/pc
New York City	90/68/s	88/64/s
Orlando	84/66/s	87/67/s
Seattle	74/52/s	65/51/c

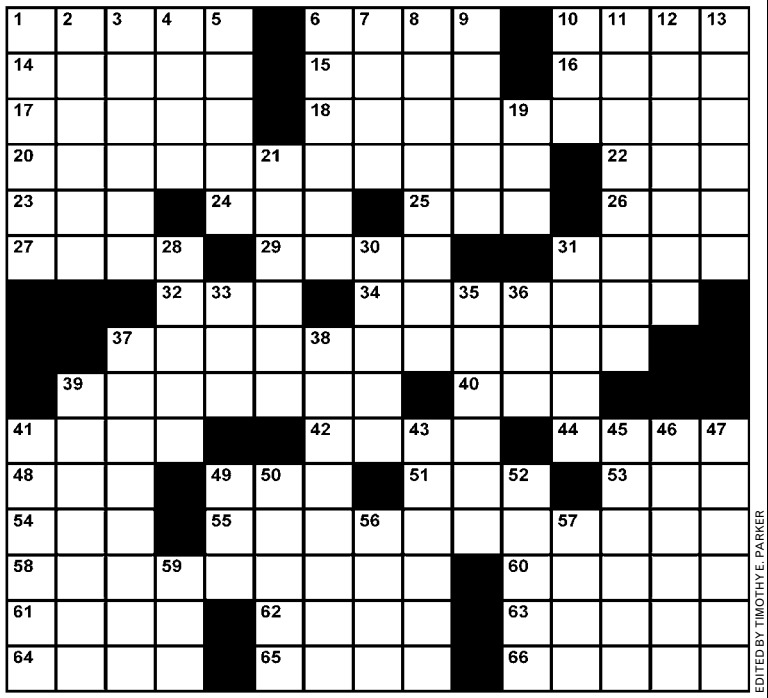
World Cities

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W
Amsterdam	73/57/pc	63/52/r
Athens	75/63/t	77/64/pc
Berlin	88/64/pc	84/63/t
Buenos Aires	59/41/s	63/50/pc
Calgary	55/38/pc	63/45/c
Dublin	57/43/pc	54/41/pc
Geneva	81/55/c	78/50/pc
Moscow	72/53/s	79/57/s
Rome	84/63/s	81/63/pc
Sydney	68/51/s	70/52/s
Tokyo	70/68/r	77/63/s

s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

LOOK out

Stinging Barbs

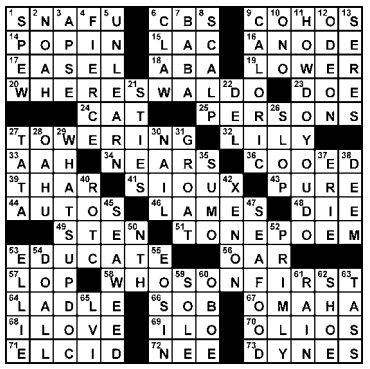


EDITED BY TIMOTHY E. PARKER

ACROSS
1 Marsh hens
6 An ump is paid to make it
10 Elementary studies
14 Blessing prompter
15 China setting
16 "Dies ___" (mass hymn)
17 Fab Four member
18 Occupies a table for one
20 Trouble, so to speak
22 Pick on playfully
23 Smog-monitoring org.
24 Srta. after marriage
25 Lobster eggs
26 Compass dir.
27 CD component
29 "Jewel Song" or "Flower Song"
31 ___-in-the-bone (deeply ingrained)
32 Hightail
34 Basic commodities
37 Like an hourglass form
39 Former German state
40 ___ Mateo, California
41 Dos y uno
42 301, Roman-style
44 "Doggone it!"
48 Sinbad's transportation
49 "'Tis a pity"
51 Verb or malt ending?
53 Book between Gal. and Phil.
54 Ugh cousin
55 Intelligent insect?
58 Rushed headlong
60 Battle depicted in "The Last Command"
61 Nero's robe
62 "If all ___ fails ..."
63 Easier on the eyes
64 Part of a palindromic phrase
65 Unnatural blonde, e.g.
66 Diminutive

DOWN
1 Converted a check
2 Some mollusks
3 "Gone With the Wind" family
4 Of two minds
5 Hurting spots
6 He asked, "Et tu, Brute?"
7 Dumb ___ ox
8 Educated ones
9 Bronco catcher
10 Feel malaise
11 Talked terms
12 Pound fillers
13 Like most fruit
19 Absorbed, as an expense
21 Vagabonds
28 Christmas name
30 Father of Jacob
31 Amalgamation
33 Sure-footed work animal
35 St. Francis' birthplace
36 "Harper Valley ___"
37 Tornado aftermath, typically
38 In a decidedly evil manner
39 Supervise, as an exam
41 "Valse ___" (Sibelius work)
43 More frigid
45 Manufacturer's payback
46 Knuckle-dragging sorts
47 More than a hypothesis
49 1/6 fl. oz.
50 Make it harder to stop?
52 Create a statute
56 ___-majeste
57 Collagist's need
59 ___ tai (cocktail)

Yesterday's Solution



Su|do|ku

Degree of Difficulty: HARD

Fill in the boxes so each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits 1 through 9. For solution, tips and computer program, see www.sudoku.com

Need more Su|do|ku?
Find another Sudoku puzzle in the Comics section of the Post every Sunday and in the Style section every Monday through Saturday.

Yesterday's Solution

6	5	2	1	3	4	9	7	8
4	9	1	6	8	7	3	5	2
7	3	8	5	2	9	6	1	4
2	8	7	4	6	3	5	9	1
1	6	9	2	5	8	4	3	7
5	4	3	9	7	1	8	2	6
8	7	4	3	1	5	2	6	9
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MAY 25-27, 2007



Home Ins: The hippest decor scores debut in New York City | E5

Raise the Stakes with a Skirt

Micro-minis, flirty trumpets and slimming pencils to help show off your stalks | E4

Plus

Chef Barton Seaver on bubbly and bluefish | E2

MARGEE ELY/EXPRESS

face QA time

■ **Though tautog, wreckfish** and other less-than-familiar catches star at Georgetown's new Hook (3241 M St. NW), the man behind the stove is familiar to D.C. foodies: former St. Ex chef Barton Seaver. A passionate supporter of sustainable seafood, Seaver puts his menu where his mouth is at the mod M Street space, serving ocean-friendly dishes.



CHRIS EICHLER

Barton Seaver

CHEF AT HOOK, SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD FAN

When did you get interested in sustainable seafood?
I've always believed in sustainability. It's irresponsible to act the way we do. I also spent summers on the Patuxent River, and I tasted the difference between fresh food and the stuff at Safeway.

How do you convince diners to give up over-fished species like blue fin tuna or Atlantic cod?
If they don't see anything that they think they'd buy, we try to tell them about something they haven't heard of that's sustainable. Take bluefish — when it's good, it's the best thing in the sea. It's rich, complex and takes on such a great flavor.

You're riled up about this.
I'm rapidly falling off the cliff. But the role of the chef is getting to be like this. We need to drive consumers toward the right thing.

How do I shop for sustainable fish to cook at home ?
People tend to buy what's cheapest, but instead of doing that, you should buy food like you'd buy a car. Do your research and buy what you believe in.

OK, I have my PC fish. What should I do with it?
Season it well — put in more salt than you think you need.

And what's the best way to cook it?
Roast it at 220 degrees in the oven with a pan of water at the side. It'll take half an hour, but in that time you can have a glass of wine and talk to your husband.

What kind of wine goes with fish?
At Hook, we've got a pretty eclectic list. Petit Manseng is interesting, or you could do an unctuous Sancerre.

What's your home kitchen like?
It's largely my champagne closet. Right now, I've got about 34 bottles. I love champagne because it captures the winemaker's whole process. If I were called before St. Peter in heaven, I'd show up at the gates with champagne and a slab of bacon.

Where do you eat out?
I like the food to be simple. JohnPaul Damato just opened Mio downtown, and it's got great, clean flavors. And I like to stuff my face at Pupuseria San Miguel in Mount Pleasant.

> "If I were called before St. Peter, I'd show up with champagne."

How are you finding the customers at Hook different from your fans at St. Ex and Bar Pilar?
Surprisingly, the diners are pretty similar. I thought they'd be less adventurous in Georgetown. But this place gives me a stage to play out my food in a cleaner, more elegant way.

What do you wear to cook in?
We got these slim-cut jackets with venting at the back. And I always wear women's Seven jeans — they fit better. It's important to look good for the restaurant. No one wants to see me with a potbelly and bloody fingers.

JENNIFER BARGER (EXPRESS)

IN THE POST TODAY



Take Your Pick

Make a day of it! Have fun harvesting your favorite fruits and vegetables with our guide to area pick-your-own farms.

Also in Weekend: Previews of the newly-expanded Capital Jazz Fest and the Shakespeare Free for All. Plus, best bets for fun, shows to catch, what's new at the movies, on DVD and in video games.

Great weekends start with the Weekend section.

The Washington Post

If you don't get it, you don't get it.

N496 5x5

goods | Styles



3 Quench Twist

WHILE BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS may keep you from jetting to Australia anytime soon, it's now possible to sip like a wizard of Oz. Tasmanian Rain bottled water ($59-$79 per case, tasmanianrain.com) is gathered on the Aussie island. It comes in pretty, wine-like vessels and tastes clean and crisp, mate.

Grab Bag



5 Coming Around Again

SEVENTEENTH STREET's fashion loss is 14th Street's gain. His and hers sportswear trove Circle Boutique (1736 14th St. NW; 202-518-2212) just decamped to Logan Circle's boutique hot zone, bringing with it knit tops by Saja and Deener's denim knickers, plus cool logo tees and 191's hipster dress shirts (shown, $69) for guys. Also here: the old place's indie vibe.



2 Save Room for Dessert

TRUFFLES ARE SMASHING except when they're squished in your purse. So, Godiva has launched Chocoiste, a line of goodies that are good to go (all priced at $2.95 to $3.50) in the form of poppable pearls, mini-bars, domes and smothered fruits and nuts.



4 Swatch Your Purse

HATE SPOTTING a fave bag on M Street on someone else's arm? Freddy & Ma's custom clutches, hoboes and totes ($85-$340, freddyandma.com) banish style clones. Choose from dozens of arty prints (pastel birds, Day-Glo swirls, minty damasks).



Summer Spritzes

WE STILL GO TO The Gap for jeans, even though we know we should be much cooler. Now we have another reason to hit the mall: GapBody's new line of six fragrances ($28 each). We love IslandHop, a blend of fruit and suntan lotion that's all tropical and yummy; LoveShack is a young, flowery fragrance that your 14-year-old cousin will adore. None of them are sophisticated, but all are fit for some fun in the sun.

dear manolo

ANSWERS FROM THE SHOEBLOGGER

I currently wear sneakers to walk to work, but want something a bit more fashionable. Flip-flops won't cut it. —MARIE

■ Manolo says, Yes, your lime-green Nike Shox Explodine with the springs in the heels and the orange "swoosh" are comfortable and have the high level of the "street cred," but somehow, now that you are on the edge of making senior partner, they just no longer seem appropriate for your Chanel suit. Who was that in the limo that just drove by? The prominent senator on the finance committee whom your firm has been courting for the months now? Did he recognize you? What was that expression? Scorn? Ridicule? Pity? Ayyyyy! And this is why the Manolo does not fully approve of wearing the sneakers for the commute, because one never knows whom one may encounter. Better to look your best from the instant you leave the house, even if this means the men playing basketball in the schoolyard no longer glance approvingly at your feetwear. Here is the Sevilla from Ecco ($124, zappos), the open-toe sandal that is reputedly comfortable and moderately stylish.



Ask the Manolo a question at manolo@shoeblogs.com. Visit the Manolo at shoeblogs.com.

ON THE COVER

Kristin wears a Custo Barcelona skirt ($288) **and Three-Dot halter** ($110, both All About Jane, 2839 Clarendon Blvd., Arlington) **with gold nugget earrings** ($525, tantastreasures.com)**. Hair and makeup by Richard Bernal, T.H.E. Artist Agency and Skin Beauty Lounge. Model, T.H.E. Artist Agency. Photo by Marge Ely.**

Styles | fashion









Tell Me About Hem

Some say that the shorter skirts get, the better the economy. The variety of styles on the racks now, from teeny minis to knee-hugging pencils, suggests a mixed fiscal outlook. But your fashion stock — and hot-weather comfort level — soars if you wear one of these flattering, leg-flaunting numbers. JENNIFER BARGER (EXPRESS) & ELIZABETH P. GIBBENS







(1) Pockets and khaki lend Nanette Lepore's mini outback allure. ($195, nordstrom.com) **(2) On steamy days**, Boden's cotton trumpet in a '70s-ish floral keeps its cool. ($88, bodenusa.com) **(3) If Marie Antoinette** held court now, she might wear Saja's pink voile baby with pompoms. ($136, All About Jane, 2839 Clarendon Blvd., Arlington; 703-243-4424) **(4) A Moroccan market** pattern spices up Tracy Reese's linen/cotton skirt. ($170, Proper Topper, 1350 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-842-3055) **(5) A sophisticated spin** on a jean skirt, a pin-striped denim pencil is dressy enough for work, yet sexy enough for after 5 p.m. ($190, Reiss, 1254 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-944-8577) **(6) Channel nights** in Madrid with Geren Ford's tulle-on-cotton charmer. ($158, Corby Collection, Mazza Gallerie; 202-686-5363) **(7) Don't bungle** Lepore's jungle-inspired skirt: Don with a tee and platforms for an edgy Amazonian look. ($295, All About Jane)



What's Hot at Home

Fresh decor ranges from techy chairs to retro wallpaper

At this week's International Contemporary Furniture Fair in New York City, interior designers posed for photos by 7-foot-tall leather flower planters and sofa-store owners crawled into a $12,000 fiberglass pod with its own mattress, stereo and lighting system.

But the real stars of this annual, 600-vendor expo of new, notable and want-able home decor were more practical and often downright pretty. And the high-tech lamps, psychedelic wallpaper and country-mod benches shown at the fair are coming soon to a boutique, catalog or Web site near you.

The contempo design world has been kind of schizo recently, with some companies turning out stark, clean-lined pieces (DWR, IKEA) and others going daft for crafty organica (deer heads, felt).

But ICFF exhibits suggested that the Dwell-reading minimalists and knitting lumberjacks might yet find common ground. Fleetwood's "Timber" stools look like stumps, but they're cast in metal and covered in glossy hues. Artecnica's "TransNeomatic" pillows (shown) marry recycled tires and wicker. At Philipinno designer Kenneth Cobonpue's space, sofa sectionals were square and sleek but backed with earthy "forests" of vines.

Goth goods also cast a darkly chic glow at the booths of New York's Ted Nemeth (tednemethdesigns.com), who covers claw-footed coffee tables in rock 'n' roll-y, tooled leather, and London's Deborah Bowness (deborahbowness.com), who handprints spookily beautiful strips of wallpaper depicting slightly forlorn lamps (shown) or frocks.

Some stuff was pricey and custom, but much of the highest-impact merch at ICFF cost the least. Mid-century mod distillers BluDot debuted a "Real Good" chair (shown) in laser-cut steel that's sleekly gem-like, yet retails for just $99. Bargain style genies Umbra will soon sell a killer-yet-cheap paint-by-numbers clock.

And while Nama Rococo's Klimt-goes-to-Hollywood (nama rococo.com) wallpaper panels run a couple hundred bucks, they're wild enough to stand in for pricier paintings. Like many of the fair's designs, they make the decor future look bright. JENNIFER BARGER (EXPRESS)

I SAW THE NEW TODAY: Soon-to-debut styles at the International Contemporary Furniture Fair included Deborah Bowness wallpaper (top), Artecnica's tire pillow (below) and BluDot's steel chair (right).





SECRET SOURCES ▸▸ CONTEMPO DECOR STORES



The Mod Squadron

D.C.'s days as a bastion of colonial chic seem as distant as the George Washington administration. That means it's now easy to find cubic Canadian tables and cutting-edge Asian ottomans.

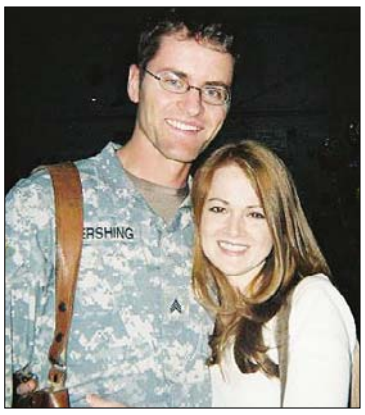
A few of the best sources of new designs include Muleh (1831 14th St. NW; 202-667-3440) for Kenneth Cobonpue's shapely Asian sofas and platform beds (shown), Homebody (715 8th St. NW; 202-544-8445) for Angela Adams' pop arty rugs and Umbra's accessories, and Apartment Zero for BluDot furniture and Helena Jongerius' forward-looking floral china (406 7th St. NW; 202-628-4067).

On the Web, the scene gets even more happening. Standout sites range from edgy Velocity Art and Design (velocityartandesign.com) for prints, lighting and kids' furniture to 2 Modern (2modern.com), a virtual warehouse for Inhabit's groovy fabric panels and Not Neutral's Mondrian-esque cabinets. And for contemporary design classics — Knoll, Saarinen, et al — buzz over to hivemodern.com. J.B.



B.I.O.

BY INVITATION ONLY: UPCOMING WEDDINGS & UNIONS



Andrew Pershing, Karen Beth Schmiedeskamp

Andrew, 27, is an interrogator for the Army. Karen, 26, is an analyst for the Department of Defense. They will live in Alexandria after they marry.

■ **The Main Event:** A semiformal affair for 60 guests in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on May 26.

■ **Honeymoon:** "Drew is redeploying to Iraq in September, so we won't be able to go on a real honeymoon until he gets back," says Karen. "So, after the wedding, I'll be in a U-Haul truck with my mom, and he'll be back at Fort Hood with a bunch of hairy dudes."

■ **How They Met:** While they were students at the University of Iowa.

■ **First Date:** "We went to this little place that serves the best artichoke-spinach dip in the world, because I recommended it," says Karen. "He ate a ton of it with me, and we had a great time. Months afterward, I found out he hates spinach-artichoke dip and choked down every bite."

■ **How He Proposed:** "During one of my visits to D.C., Karen was sick," says Andrew. "While she lay in bed blowing her nose, I told her that even at her worst, she is still the most amazing woman I know and if she knew that I loved her now, there would be no question that I will love her when we both grow old and crusty."

■ **Stupidest Fight:** "He wanted his crazy dog to be the ring bearer for our wedding," says Karen. "I wigged."

Karen says of Andrew, "He feels like home to me."

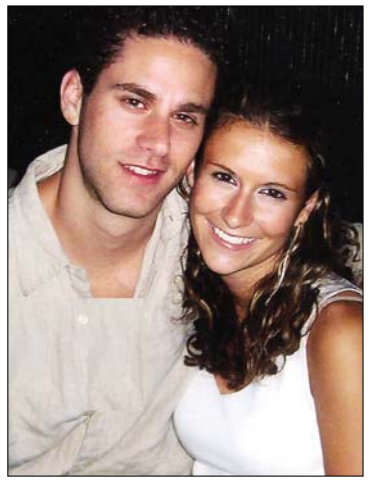


The Hair Apparent

Relationships can get hairy at times. And occasionally they start out that way. When **LISA DALEY** met **MIKE MANGI** at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Lisa clearly remembers her first impression: "He had muttonchops — in college!" The two were friends at school and kept in touch through a mutual friend, but didn't start dating until years after graduation.

The weekend they reconnected, they took a walk in New York's Central Park. "I knew that's where I had to propose," said Mike. Nearly two years later, he did just that; then they celebrated with champagne at the Central Park Boathouse. The two will marry in a semiformal ceremony and reception for 150 guests in Egg Harbor, Wis., that, hopefully, won't last too long. "My dad is very verbose," says Lisa. "With a captive audience, I fear his toast will end only when someone tackles him."

Lisa, 31, is an attorney for the Department of Energy. Mike, 32, is a senior Web developer for Ogilvy Public Relations Worldwide. They live in Washington and will marry Aug. 25.



Seth Davis, Kathy Evans

Seth, 28, is a real estate asset manager. Kathy, 28, is an interior designer. They live in Washington.

■ **The Main Event:** A Jewish-Catholic ceremony and reception for 200 guests on Sept. 1 in Ocean Pines, Md.

■ **How They Met:** At a party at the University of Maryland.

■ **First Impressions:** "Hottie!" says Seth. "I don't remember him the first time we met," says Kathy. "The second time, I thought he was super-cute and funny."

■ **First Date:** "On my 24th birthday, Seth planned out a whole evening that started with our official first date at Sushi Samba in New York," says Kathy.

■ **How He Proposed:** On Christmas Eve. "After everyone had gone to sleep, we stayed up and he asked me if I wanted to open one gift," says Kathy. "Then he got down on one knee and proposed."

"We were at an Adams Morgan bus stop, and Seth told me he wanted to marry me."

■ **Stupidest Fight:** Over how much salt to add to the humidifier. "If you add too much salt, it makes a lot of noise and I can't fall asleep," says Kathy. "If you add too little salt it doesn't steam," says Seth.

■ **Their Song:** "The Nearness of You," by Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong. "One day we were lying in bed, and Seth started to sing this song to me," says Kathy.

John Daggett, Elizabeth Pratt

John, 33, is a policy analyst for U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Beth, 30, is the manager of Institutional Review for ACCSCT, a national accrediting agency. They live in Washington.

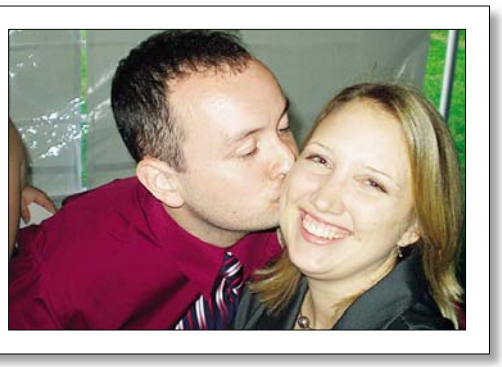
■ **The Main Event:** A semiformal afternoon affair in Boothbay Harbor, Maine, on Aug. 18. They expect 125 guests.

■ **How They Met:** "Another kickball love story," says John. They met while playing in the same D.C. league.

■ **First Impression:** "He made me laugh," says Beth. "Sporty, confident, utterly gorgeous," says John.

■ **First Date:** Shopping for Christmas presents for his family at Pentagon City.

■ **How He Proposed:** While leaving to go to dinner during Restaurant Week, "he told me there was something that he wanted to show me on the porch," says Beth. "I thought it was another home improvement project, but then he got on one knee and proposed."



■ **Stupidest Fight:** "The Great Crumpled Towel Debate of 2005," says John.

■ **When He Knew:** "When I realized that even the most mundane thing we do together becomes an adventure," says John.

■ **Making It Unique:** "The reception will be in the middle of the afternoon and all the formal aspects will happen there," says Beth. "But then we will have a three-hour sunset boat cruise with a DJ and lots of dancing."

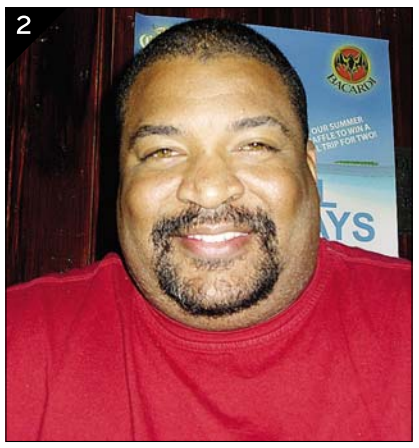
■ **Wedding Jitters:** "That the boat cruise will end up like the 'Gilligan's Island' one," says Beth.



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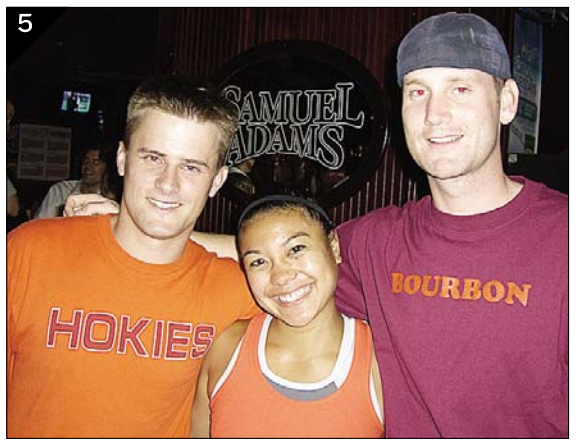
Styles | people













out there

SEEKING ANSWERS ON THE TOWN

Q What's your favorite article of clothing?

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1. "My 3-inch flowered stilettos," Kamilah Holder. **"My glasses,"** Isaiah Wooden. **"My red Converse high-tops,"** Sharifah Holder. **2. "My Terry Bradshaw football jersey,"** Smoky the DJ. **3. "My yellow sunflower tie. It takes a very comfortable and confident man to wear it,"** William Green, left, with Drew Reed. **4. "An old pair of Gap Long and Lean jeans. I tried to turn them into cutoffs,"** Emily Knight. **5. "My $2 Wal-Mart flip-flops that I've had for seven years,"** Tom Rice, left, with Abby Francisco and Keith Burkholder. **6. "My hoodie,"** Lenny Howell. **"Men in pink,"** Maggy Hunter. COLLEEN EGAN

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Townhouses offer condo perks plus the space of single family dwellings

Less land, more home. That's the equation that makes townhouses work well for many home buyers in the Washington metro area. And the math has been adding up since buyers first looked for places to live in Georgetown and Alexandria during the 1800s and found such in-town houses to be the practical (and very likely only) choice.

High land prices in the Washington metro area still make townhouse math work for many buyers. Whether it's a brick rowhouse along the Potomac riverfront in Alexandria priced at well more than $2 million, or a 30-year-old townhouse in Reston priced at less than $300,000, buyers are able to get more house for their money if they choose one of these land-efficient dwellings.

Matt and Flavia Herringa have lived in a three-bedroom townhouse in Germantown since 2001. "The best part right now is the affordability," says Matt Herringa. "When we were looking, the housing market was at its height. We never would have been able to get this much space."



PARADIGM DEVELOPMENT

A SPACE ODYSSEY: Townhouses in Buckingham Commons near the Ballston Metro station will boast four stories.

The couple's community was built in 1991, says Matt Herringa, an engineer who commutes to the District each day. He likes that it has a lot of green space and play areas for the couple's two daughters, age 6 and 4. "It's not like townhouses being built today, rooftop to rooftop," he says. "They're so close together."

However, Flavia Herringa, an stay-at-home mom, says she enjoys the close proximity to neighbors. "You're almost forced to be social,

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and that's really nice. You're not isolated like you can be in a single-family home."

Now that the weather's warm, most of their neighbors spend a lot of time on the backyard decks off their kitchens. "Sometimes it's like a little restaurant," says Flavia Herringa. "Everybody is out there in the evenings and you're waving back and forth."

They find storage and parking to be two downsides to their living arrangement, and the issues are related. Their townhouse has a one-

> "You're almost forced to be social, and that's really nice. You're not isolated."
>
> **FLAVIA HERRINGA**, HOMEOWNER

car garage, which holds pretty much everything but one of their cars. "It's jammed full of other stuff [such as their second refrigerator] and the kids' toys," says Matt Herringa. One car resides in their driveway, and the other gets parked wherever there is an open space. Parking is "a bit of a problem right now," he notes. "If you don't get home early enough, you're going to be parking on the street or a block away."

Parking is a common concern among townhouse residents, even if they have one- or two-car garages. Communities with garages often have relatively little in the way of extra parking spaces, and a couple of three-car households, or a few households that frequently entertain guests can turn parking into a competitive sport.

Sharon Slowik, a Long & Foster real estate agent in the Tysons Corner area, says buyers are attracted to townhouses because they get more up-to-date amenities for their money. In the area around the Vienna Metro station, for example, buyers looking for a home in the $600,000 to $700,000 range would likely be limited to a home that's at least 20 years old, and would lack the touches common in newer construction, such as high ceilings and open floor plans.

In contrast, Slowik is now trying to sell a four-bedroom townhouse built in 1999 that's adjacent to the Vienna Metro station. For its roughly $685,000 asking price, the townhouse offers all the bells and whistles in fashion today, such as walk-in closets, wood floors, Corian countertops and a large, soaking tub.



GABRIELA BULISOVA

CLOSE CALL: Flavia and Matt Herringa and their two daughters enjoy the community feel of their Gaithersburg townhouse.

"The reason people are buying townhouses now is because they're glitzy, they're modern, they're bright and they're open," she says.

However, townhouses are not immune to the weakening prices that have hit the area's housing market over the last two years. Slowik recalls one townhouse near the Vienna Metro station that had no upgrades and sold last year for about $695,000. However, a similar home with upgrades was marketed this year at $685,000. "Yeah, I have to admit, values have slightly dipped," she says.

However, the townhouse market is not as flush with supply as the condo market, and that oversupply isn't pushing values down the way it has been for condo apartments. Jay Seville, an agent with Re/Max Allegiance in Arlington, blogs about what he says are overpriced condominiums along the Orange Line in Virginia at justnewlistings.com. But he thinks townhouses are less risky right now. "There's a limited supply, and I just find them to be safer [investments], especially once you get into the higher price ranges," he says.

Homeowner's association fees in townhouse communities usually are lower and easier to bear than condo fees, as well. For example, even though their community has tot lots, a pool and a clubhouse, the Herringas pay only $50 per month for their homeowner's association dues. Condo fees typically cost several hundred dollars a month, because they must cover maintenance and insurance for the entire building, as well as the cost of special services such as front-desk staff or on-site gyms.

At least one developer is taking the plunge on a new townhouse development in the condo-saturated Ballston area. Paradigm Development Co. has started work on Buckingham Commons, which will include 37 townhouses within walking distance of the Ballston Metro station. Prices will start at $725,000 for a three-bedroom brick townhouse with a two-car garage. Sales are under way, and a model is expected to be open in early 2008.

Buckingham Common Developer Clarke Ewart says he doesn't see the project as that great of a risk, despite the current real estate market. "This development is for people who want to live here, versus an investor who wants to own and flip," he says.

He's counting on the close-in Arlington location, combined with amenity-laden interiors — with features like rooftop decks, hardwood floors, and kitchens outfitted in stainless steel and granite — to draw buyers. "There just isn't this type of land, [3.8 acres total for each home] available in north Arlington," he says. ELIZABETH RAZZI

TIP SHEET ▶▶ KNOW BEFORE YOU BUY

Advice on Townhouse Hunting

- Review the homeowner's association rules before you make a purchase offer. There can be restrictions on parking a boat or a truck, limitations on paint colors and even rules about which types of window coverings can be used.
- Ask whether the property you're interested in is a condo or a "fee-simple" ownership. Most townhouses locally are the latter, which means you'll have to pay for outside paint jobs and re-roofing.
- Find out what's included in your monthly homeowner's fees. Does the association take care of grass cutting, snow removal, trash removal and pool membership, or will some services carry additional fees?
- Visit in the evening. That will give you a better indication that there might be an undersupply of parking spaces or loud neighbors living next door. E.R.

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Hip, Hot Properties

Luxury condos threaten the indie feel of Brooklyn's hipster enclave

So, this is truth: About eight nanoseconds ago, Williamsburg was the national-magazine-certified coolest hood in America, with more vaguely employed white hipsters per square inch than anywhere on the continent. There are 22 clubs and 61 art galleries and enough pubs pouring fine Belgian beers to pitch any 22-year-old into a state of bleary-eyed ecstasy.

Makis Antzoulatos was fine with all that.

But something nagged. As the neighborhood went hyper-hip and rents spiked, where would all the Puerto Ricans go? Or the old Poles who run the delis, or the Italians in East Williamsburg, where you can wander into a pasta joint at 11 p.m. and get a plate of scungilli and OK-but-slightly-headache-inducing Chianti?

Antzoulatos gathered pierced hipsters on the bare floor of his tenement living room and found-

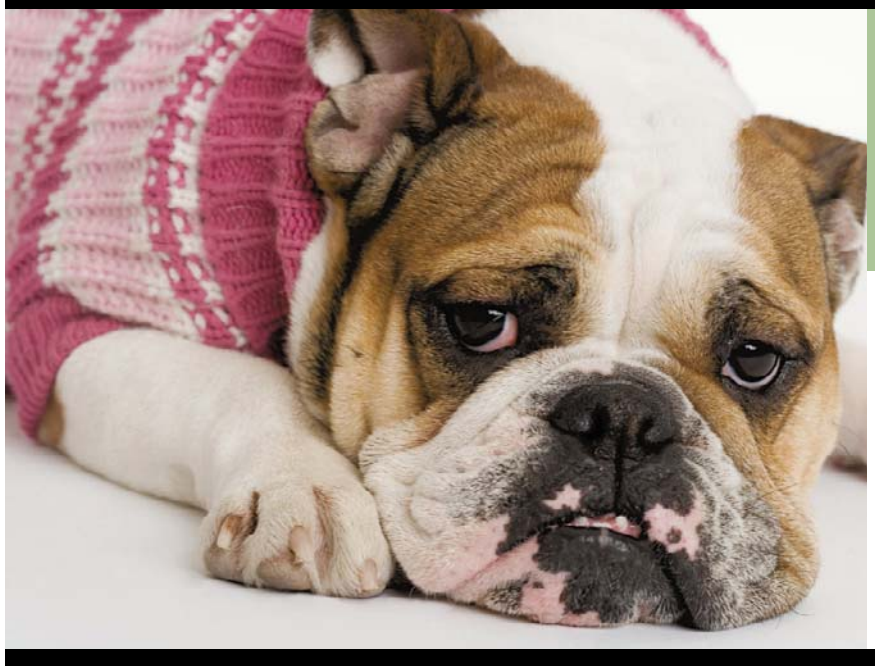
CONTINUED ON E6



SARAH L. VOISIN/THE WASHINGTON POST

IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY MAY LEAVE: Real estate developers are remaking the gritty Brooklyn neighborhood of Williamsburg, once a relatively inexpensive, arty area, with several upcoming condominium projects geared toward high-income residents.

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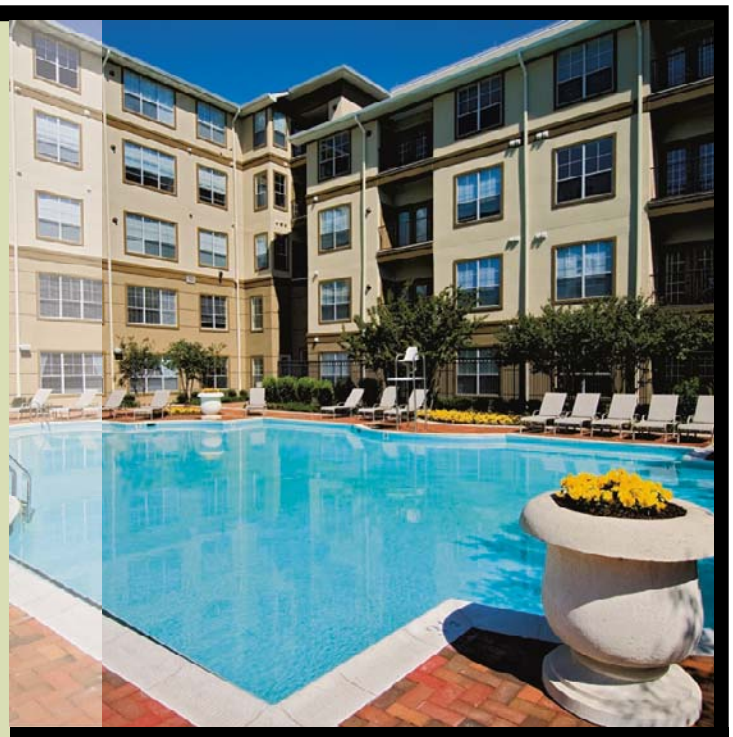
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Hipsterville

CONTINUED FROM E5

ed Gentrifiers Against Gentrification. They vowed to make common cause with Puerto Rican teachers and Italian bus drivers — who, not incidentally, gave Williamsburg the working-class edge that made it hip in the first place — and repulse the moneyed waves.

Whatever. Condos kept flipping. Antzoulatos dialed for a moving van.

"I realized the struggle was about negotiating the terms of departure," says Antzoulatos, 28, who now lives in a working-class precinct of slightly less rapidly gentrifying Boston.

Much has been written about gentrification and its discontents, but in few places has the speed and finality of that transformation been more startling than in Williamsburg, a formerly working-class Brooklyn neighborhood of 180,000 people along the East River. A wall of luxury glass towers is rising for 25 blocks along the "East River Riviera." Wander inland and check out the needle condo towers with three-bedroom places retailing at $1,135,000.

> "Follow the gays and the artists — they restore cities. It's that or wither away."
>
> **FRANK BRACONI**, URBAN PLANNER

Overnight, another preserve of working-class American culture is rendered unaffordable to thousands of families — and to the hipsters themselves. Want to know the next move? Toll Brothers, the nation's preeminent McMansion builder, has built a new luxe waterfront condo. Its ad features a preppy and distinctly unpierced blonde and the line: "Williamsburg, All Grown Up."

Anthropologist Neil Smith of City University's Center for Place, Culture and Politics has tracked gentrification with an obsession worthy of Ahab. He's charted the transformation of blue-collar neighborhoods, from Shaw in the District and San Francisco's Mission to the

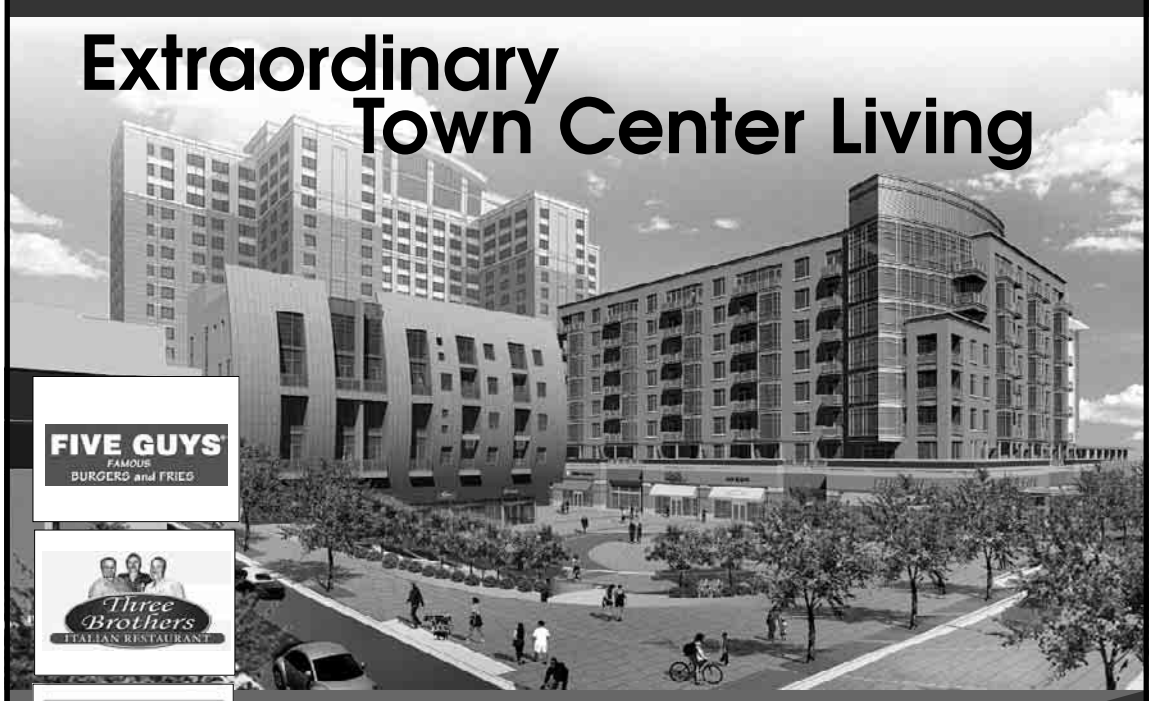
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SARAH L. VOISIN/WASHINGTON POST

In Williamsburg, Brooklyn, artists and yuppies have transformed a one-time zone of warehouse and working-class houses into a stylish and expensive place to live.

Hipsterville

CONTINUED FROM E6

wharfs of London and the canal-lined streets of Amsterdam. This isn't the old block-by-block stuff, the grinding rehab of old rowhouses by scruffy young gentry. He's convinced he's found a new beast.

"We are witnessing the corporate and geographical restructuring of cities — the wealthy are suburbanizing the center and pushing the poor to the fringes, and it's turbocharged," Smith says. "Artists are disposable — developers just toss them out in hopes they'll colonize the next 'hot' neighborhood.

"And no one bloody knows where the working class will go."

As Williamsburg turns into urban Disneyland, those who own homes, a small fraction, see values spike and pass the dough to their kids. Everything becomes safer, hipper; there's better sushi.

"Follow the gays and the artists — they restore cities. It's that or wither away," says Frank Braconi, director of the Citizens Housing and Planning Council of New York.

As for the working class?

"A high school-educated person," Braconi says, "stands a much better chance of prospering in Atlanta than in New York."

But that raises the question: What becomes of millions of middle- and working-class residents who represent the majority of New York, Boston, Chicago and Los Angeles? An edgy mix of races and classes has for generations defined the world city. Now, coolness does the suburban dance.

Elvin Wyly of the University of British Columbia authored a Fannie Mae report that found mortgage lending in Williamsburg has increased in recent years at twice the national average — and most of those dollars go to upper-class families. "We are transforming class character of the American city," says Wyly. "There's nothing 'natural' about it."

"The struggle in the 1970s was to force banks to loan in poor neighborhoods," he adds. "Now, we're trying to slow the banks down."

Change comes with particular poignancy in Williamsburg. Residents wrested their neighborhood from blight's maw long before the gentry arrived. From 1986 to 1995, New York City poured $750 million

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SARAH L. VOISIN/WASHINGTON POST

The Williamsburg Bridge once led to a declining zone in Brooklyn. The area then started to draw artists and shops. Now, it's the focus of real estate developers.

into Williamsburg and Greenpoint, and tenants created thousands of low-income cooperative apartments. When factories shuttered, boutique manufacturers and artists took root, employing laborers at good wages.

Nor did natives object when their old neighborhood slipped on a new dress.

Luis Acosta, a 61-year-old former seminarian, won't wax nostalgic for the day a teenager bled to death on his front stoop. Nor does Rob Solano, the thickly muscled son of a Puerto Rican knish vendor, object to the wasabi-and-poblano-sauce restaurants; it beats convincing his girlfriend to ride the L subway line to Manhattan for a dinner out.

> "A high school-educated person stands a better chance of prospering in Atlanta."
>
> **FRANK BRACONI**, URBAN PLANNER

You walk into South Williamsburg and find Rabbi David Niederman, black-hatted and bearded, standing by the automotive river that is the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway. His ultra-Orthodox Hasidic Jewish sect washed ashore with a dozen families 50 years ago and built a 50,000-strong shtetl that repelled the crack gangsters of the late 1980s.

"We thank God for making this world safe," Niederman says.

But dislocation looms. The median family in Williamsburg earns $27,466 and spends 45 percent of its income on rent. The three-piece-suited newcomer hails from the financial sector, where the average salary is $195,857. "How do we compete with this tsunami?" Niederman asks. "Our insularity is no match for this money."

Hasidic Jews march to protest the intrusion of another luxury loft — Busta Rhymes lives there. Polish and Puerto Rican families put hand-lettered signs in their windows — "Speculators Beware: This Building Not for Sale!" — and burn candles in protest.

And still the moneyed waves wash in.

Acosta, dark hair swept back to his shoulders, walks across the bones of a once-great industrial land. He points out blackened stumps of piers where freighters docked and grassy lots where spice warehouses stood. He touches the brick wall of the Domino Sugar Factory, which two years ago employed thousands but now stands vacant, and sweeps his hand at Williamsburg. An onion-domed Russian Orthodox cathedral still dominates the skyline. Poles and Puerto Ricans, Italians and artists, they battled arsonists and heroin gangs, city bureaucrats, and sometimes each other. They always won — until now. Acosta doffs his fedora and waves to the south.

MICHAEL POWELL (WASHINGTON POST)



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The Container Story

Apartment 3D

One catch-22 of city living: Sometimes downtown (or close-in 'burbs) convenience means the only green space condo dwellers see is the National Mall or Rock Creek Park. But you can save yourself from a plant-free pad by going to pots. "Using containers inside really creates an interior escape," says D.C. floral designer Michael Lanni of Volanni (volanni.com), a company that can fill your pad with palms or your balcony with a mini herb garden. Lanni often uses easy-care bamboo, hostas or sweet potato vines in projects for condo dwellers.

When choosing a vessel to hold a pansy or palm, "get in a creative mood," says Sue Amatangelo, author of the new "Absolutely Beautiful Containers" ($25, Ball). "Try flea market baskets or those beautiful glazed pots from the Philippines." And keep in mind your apartment's light level. If you live in a dim English basement, go for a big-leafed peace lily that needs little light. Love ferns? Put the wispy, sun-loving babies near a window. For tips on what'll thrive in your space, ask at the garden shop, or click on the in-depth houseplant guide at plantoasis.com. And if you kill off your new, carbon footprint-reducing pal after a few months, don't feel too guilty. "If you expect a houseplant to last a couple of years, it's not going to happen," says Amatangelo. "Just enjoy it for as long as it lasts." JENNIFER BARGER (EXPRESS)



SQUARE ROOTED
Do the Frank Lloyd Wright thing with Smith and Hawken's steel Oak Park window boxes ($169-$219, smithandhawken.com), which would make a good home for herbs or a cacti collection.

LADY AND THE DAMP
Like something filched from a Gothic graveyard, this cement planter boasts a hollowed-out cranium, ready for aloe vera Medusa locks or a fern Afro. Put on a dresser near a window or on a deck, where it might spook neighbors. ($59, ballarddesigns.com)



ATOMIC URGE
Easter egg-like fiberglass bullets nestle in metal bases, rocketing space age style into a kitchen or living room. Based on a vintage original, these cuties come in a dozen retro hues. ($150-$160, hiphaven.com)

COLOR THEM COOL
Used to collect maple sap in the '30s and '40s, metal buckets now stash flowers. ($10, Great Stuff by Paul, 10 N. Caroll St., Frederick, Md.; 301-631-0004; greatstuffbypaul.com)







WATER WORLD
Eva Solo's ceramic flower pot draws H20 from a glass reservoir beneath via nylon threads, making this a good choice for busy gardeners, black thumbs and curious kids. ($47, greenergrassdesigns.com)

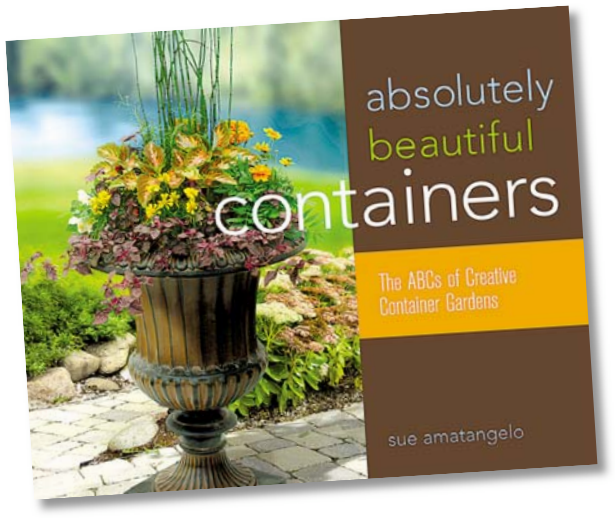
CLASSICAL ACTION
Help a loft balcony masquerade as a Tuscan garden with an iron plaque/shelf that would nicely hold teeny clay pots. Add a few candles for a dolca vita touch at parties. ($200, ballarddesigns.com)

A FORUM FOR FERNS
Yeah, HBO canceled "Rome" and struck those lush sets. But you can still get that subtle Caesar's palace look with distressed metal column planters. Tall as gladiators, these dramatic pieces would add punch to loft spaces. ($369-$429, horchow.com)

HEART FELT?
Just 7 inches across, Mio's new molded wool Beehive Softbowls come in bright hues. They cozily cache African violets, Venus fly traps and other small plants. ($40, branchhome.com)



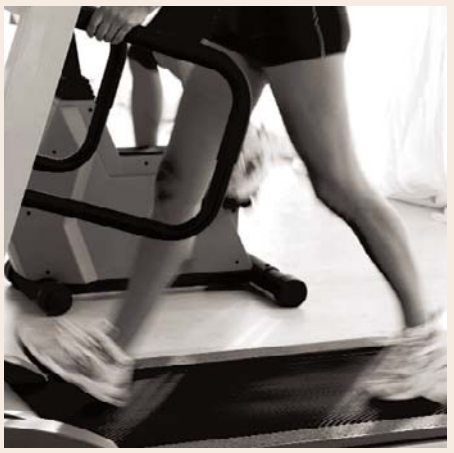




POTSHOTS
The unusual plant combos in Sue Amatangelo's "Absolutely Beautiful Containers" ($25, Ball) nestle in neoclassical urns, terra cotta planters and hip baskets.

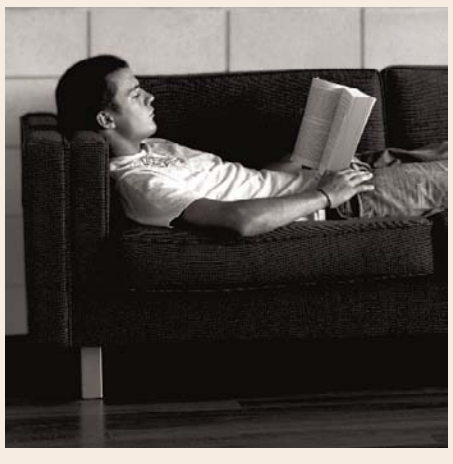


HAVE A SPICE DAY
Make a weensy window go green with this Asian-inspired set of ceramic herb pots. Just remember to water often if you place your parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme in a super-sunny spot. ($19.50, Garden District, 1801 14th St. NW; 202-797-9005)





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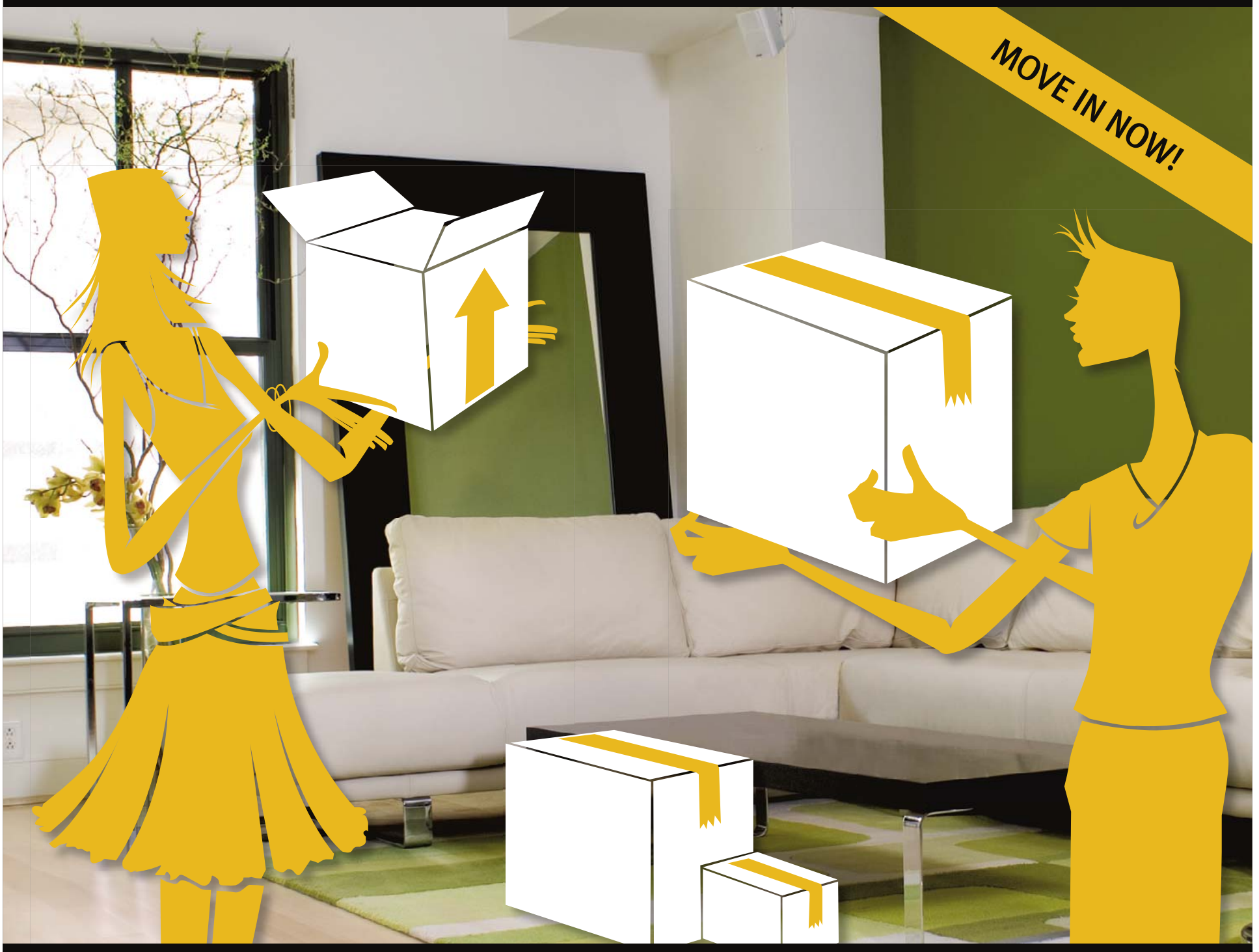
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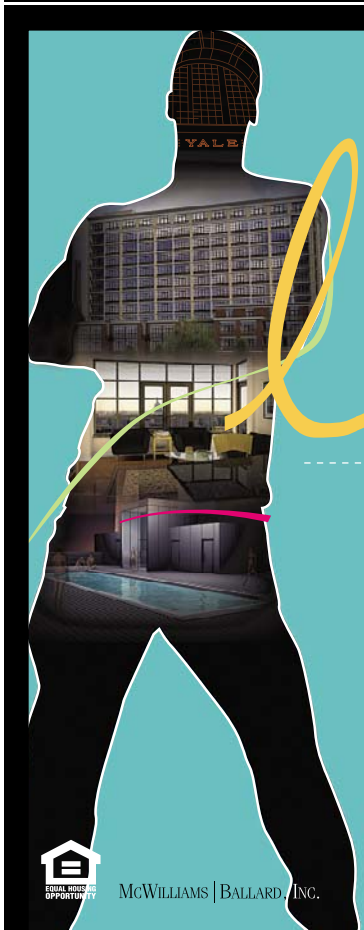
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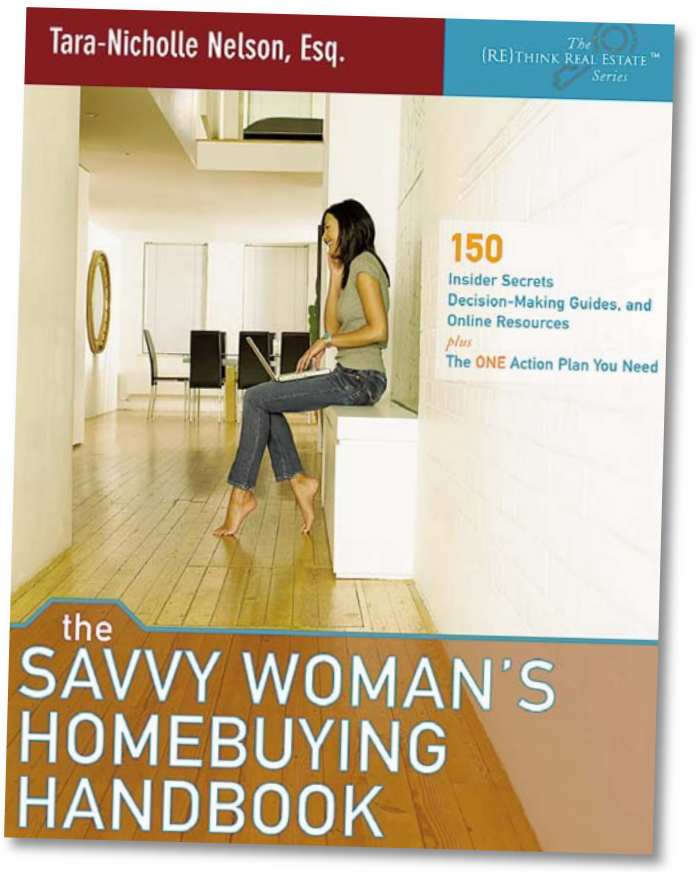
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NESTING INSTINCT: Single women purchase homes more often then bachelors, an issue Tara-Nicholle Nelson's new buying guide for gals addresses in depth.

Rooms of Her Own

A new book gives women guidance on heading into homeownership

Q+A

Single women purchased one out of every five homes in the U.S. in 2003, according to the National Association of Realtors. They accounted for 18 percent of home buyers in 2004. Some new developments are even marketing themselves mostly at women.

Statistically, women are marrying later and becoming financially savvy earlier, leading to a boom in sisters who are buying condos, cottages and mansions for themselves.

To help them out, author and real estate agent Tara-Nicholle Nelson recently penned "The Savvy Woman's Homebuying Handbook" ($19, Prosperity Way Press). With humor and insight, the book coaches readers step by step through the property-getting game.

Nelson offers insider tips and online resources to help gals make the transition from renting to being owners of their own castles. Express spoke with her about how women deal with real estate differently than men.

Tell me about the book's title.

One of the reasons I called it "The Savvy Woman's Homebuying Handbook" was I got tired of people calling themselves idiots or a dummies. The women I confront every day

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JOYS IN THE HOOD: Before zeroing in on that dream condo in Logan Circle, determine whether you can afford the mortgage.

are savvy and intelligent; they're just simply not familiar with real-estate concepts.

Unless you deal with them every day, real-estate issues can be confusing. No matter how smart or educated you are, unless you're a broker, you can't master these things.

But why target women specifically in the book? Do they approach buying a home differently than guys do?

They do. Men take a bit of how-to info, and they're off to the races. They have less fear and mind-set issues. Men, by the way, buy homes at a much lower rate until they're married.

There's a mind-set with women that doesn't seem to exist with men, and that's a possibility issue. Is this really possible? Can I really do this? They were things I heard over again.

You talk about FEQs, or frequently expressed qualms. What's the No. I fear women have about buying a home?

The fear that "I can't afford it."

The second thing I hear the most is "I have bad credit." And I hear it from people who don't know what their credit score is.

There are reputable Realtors and some you shouldn't trust. How can women tell the difference and not end up with the real estate agent from hell?

Most training programs teach Realtors how to answer certain questions, so the ability to answer a list of questions well is not a good guarantee.

> "There are things you can do to position yourself for home ownership. Go to school, start a small business."

Referrals are key. Get an agent because they worked with someone you knew and they were satisfied.

There is such a thing as women's intuition, and understanding at a gut level whether you're comfortable revealing all of the personal information about your finances and relationships. Ask them what you need to know as a home buyer starting out. If they can't inspire confidence in you, they won't inspire confidence in the seller, either, when it comes to your offer.

Are there any drawbacks to owning a home? Or, stated differently, is there ever an instance in which women are better off renting?

Absolutely. If you are not going to be in your home for at least two years, it's not advisable to buy, for sheer capital gains tax purposes. Talk to your tax adviser.

And there are definitely people who cannot afford it. There are ancillary costs to buying a home, like property taxes, and not every single person can afford a home.

But many more women can afford it than think they can. You need to get real numbers from a real mortgage professional, make a spending plan, and prioritize where your money is going. If you're spending hundreds of dollars a month on shoes, you can't afford a house.

There are things you can do now to position yourself for homeownership, though, even if you can't afford to buy now. You can go to school, start a small business or do other things to increase your future earning potential and be proactive in making yourself able to afford a home in the future. Many of my single women home buyer clients have day jobs and small businesses on the side. While you're moving toward earning more, you can pay down

CONTINUED ON E16

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Agent Tara-Nicholle Nelson says women should get savvy before buying a home.

She Shells Out

CONTINUED FROM EI5

your debt, pay your bills on time every time, and take other steps to maximize your credit score and make yourself attractive to lenders in the future.

We've heard a lot recently about the drop in sub-prime interest rates. What does that mean?
Just in the last month, the so-called sub-prime mortgage market has virtually disappeared, leaving very few feasible 100 percent and other creative financing options available.

Since 40 percent of single women home buyers put less than 5 percent down on their homes and many more make good use of creative financing programs, I predict that in the short term, women looking to buy on their own will have to save up more, earn more, or have less debt in order to qualify for mortgages than they needed to even six months ago.

> "Women have been shown to be the most responsible users of creative and low down-payment mortgages."

So today, women who have decent credit but marginal income or substantial debt (including student loans) may be unable to buy without down payment money—an obstacle which had been all but removed by the plethora of now-rare 100 percent financing programs. This is especially unfortunate, because women have been shown to be the most responsible users of creative and low down-payment mortgages.

A large chunk of the book talks about contingency offers. What are they, and why are they important?
A contingency is your right to back out if the property, on a number of levels, doesn't meet your needs. It's a huge purchase. It would be unconscionable for someone to advise you not to have any contingencies. You can't know what its true condition is — you can't inspect inside the walls and know the appraised value — before writing an offer. You have to find out the details and whether those are going to work for you.

What about contingencies regarding selling a current property?
There are a lot of financing things you can do to bridge that gap, but I try not to get people to buy a new property until they've sold theirs. You can always be in contract on your house and rent it back from the owner until you find another house.

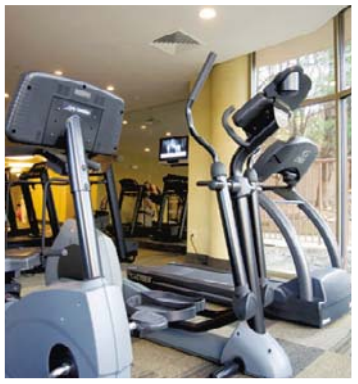
It must make you feel good to help guide women through this process.
I really feel these transactions have the power to start a snowball effect. I've seen people do this and then become much more confident in other aspects of their lives.

I also love that no one goes to jail like in my last job [as a lawyer].

LYNN THORNE









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ELIZABETH RICH

Duc Lee oversees a new market at the 1950s condo building the Towers. Residents seem to like his selection of organic foods, microbrews and luxury ice creams.

New Era, Old Condo

D.C. area's aging buildings make changes for their fresh residents

One evening in October 2005, Theresa Ojinmah grabbed a frozen dinner from the grocery store in the Northwest Washington condo building where she works. The shop had grown seedy, it was poorly stocked, and its aging manager was apathetic.

Back at her desk, Ojinmah discovered mold on her Salisbury steak. However, she didn't toss it out or demand a refund. Instead, Ojinmah, the assistant manager at the Towers, presented the decomposing meal at the condo's board meeting that evening.

Perish the thought that the developer of the Towers, builder Melvin Gelman, would have allowed such conditions. Gelman kept a decorator on retainer and lived in a 9,000-square-foot duplex in the building, at 4201 Cathedral Ave. NW. When he opened the building in the late 1950s, Gelman promised Shangri-La. The Towers boasted a restaurant, a drugstore, a florist, a grocer, a beauty salon, a tailor, a swimming pool, tennis courts and 600 park-

ing spaces.

The Salisbury steak incident signaled a tipping point. With a changing demographic in the past few years, the Towers, like other condo buildings across the District, has had to acknowledge both wrinkles and its new residents. Owners now include not only empty nesters and retirees who have traditionally lived there, but also younger people.

In a search for convenience and affordability, younger buyers are choosing condos over single-family houses, according to Joseph Himali, principal broker at Best Address Real Estate in Georgetown. "The new buyer puts a greater value on time and convenience than a yard," he said.

In the past few years, thousands of new condo units have hit the market in the District and the close-in suburbs. Eager to meet the needs of the new breed of buyers, developers are "trying to define the moment," said Jeff Wilson, a real estate agent at the Bethesda Gateway office of Long & Foster. Many of these new buildings boast luxury kitchens and fashionable loft layouts.

According to Himali, however, location and convenience can trump granite and stainless steel. And ultimately, a sleek new business center or high-tech gym won't move a property any faster, Wilson said. "Traditional never goes out of date," he said.

But how can traditional age gracefully? It can require a little push, according to Anna Maria Taylor, a member of the condo board at the Towers.

Longtime residents become complacent, so new owners are key, she said. "Once you're in," she said, "you forget the problems."

Himali describes the tension that can arise between new buyers and older owners as a conflict of time over finances. New owners are eager to see updates but don't have the time to attend board meetings. Older owners, particularly those on fixed incomes, worry they can't afford rising maintenance fees.

Last year, when the board raised the issue of replacing the carpet, Taylor recalled, a revolt ensued. Cost was mentioned. In addition, a number of owners complained because the board gave them only two choices.

Board President Mary Ann Bourbon recoiled at the memory. "People won't speak to me because of the carpet."



ELIZABETH RICH

WISH YOU WERE HERE? New condos often boast open layouts and posh kitchens, but the mid 20th-century development the Towers has a prime location in Northwest.

Some residents say troubles began as far back as Gelman's death in 1978. His heirs sold the apartment house to a developer, and in 1979, the Towers was converted into condominiums.

"The aggravation started when it went condo," said Marjory Toldman, who moved in 18 months earlier. "When it was a rental, there was a boss and everyone followed the boss."

> **"The new buyer puts a greater value on time and convenience than a yard."**
>
> **JOSEPH HIMALI**, REAL ESTATE AGENT

With the sale of the building, Toldman said, "there was a lot of fault-finding."

By the time Jim and Marlene Connors, a couple in their early 50s embarking on early retirement, bought their three-bedroom unit in 1998, the building needed work. "We were told the maintenance [fee] hadn't been raised in years, as if that were a good thing." (The board had not raised its common fees to match the cost of living since 1993.)

With growing pressure from residents such as Jim Connors, who later joined the board, the community hunkered down, adjusting the common fees in 2001 to play catch-up and make repairs. The corroded pipes for the heat and air conditioning were replaced, the roof was re-tarred, and every resident with a decaying balcony was forced to restore it at a cost of roughly $10,000.

With the edifice structurally sound, the Towers board then faced questions about retooling the condo's amenities, which now included a community room, a gym and a library. (The restaurant, florist and drugstore were all closed by the 1980s.) What should the pool hours be? How much should the employees be paid? How to enhance the grounds?

The Towers looked to its neighbors for ideas. One complex the board consistently turned to was the Westchester, less than a quarter-mile down the street.

Built in 1931 and converted into a co-op in 1953, the Westchester had its own storied past, which included a paperboy during World War II named Warren Buffett. Considered the gold standard in the Cathedral Avenue neighborhood, the Westchester has attracted retirees since it opened. It, too, was beginning to see the arrival of younger buyers, including a few families with children. (The Towers now claims about 50 children, the Westchester about 10.)

Rich with amenities, the four-building co-op was struggling with modernization. How to fill the space that was the drugstore? Should the restaurant, which receives rave reviews from longtime patrons and a so-so response from younger diners, be updated?

With a nudge from the general manager, solutions surfaced, including how to replace the recently retired beauty salon manager. After 25 years as a Dupont Circle salon owner, Walter Carrillo could no longer stomach the rising rents on Connecticut Avenue. The Westchester opening was the perfect opportunity all the way around. Carrillo's recently renovated Westchester Hair Studio (and forthcoming spa) opened in late March with discounts for seniors and students.

When it came time for the Towers board to make a decision about the building's grocery store, as poorly maintained as it was, some residents said they didn't want to see it close. "Elderly people wondered how they would exist without their market, but new owners wouldn't even go in the door," Bourbon recalled.

The board did not renew the manager's lease and instead began the search for a replacement. Down the street, Duc Lee, 35, was working for his parents at the Westchester market, preparing to take it over when they retired. When he heard about the opening at the Towers market, he applied for and got the job.

One year later, many see Lee's market as a welcome change. With its wine and boutique beer selection, organic foods, DVD rentals, novelty ice cream and household staples, the two-aisle store is a smaller version of the Westchester market.

On a recent afternoon in the Towers market, Lee's wife held their 6-month-old baby behind the counter. In the background, a computer replayed an episode of "American Idol" while a woman in her 40s bought a muffin. On her way out the door, the customer said goodbye to Lee and waved bye-bye to the baby.

"There comes a time when you have to make a change, and it was time to make a change," Bourbon said. This time, no one is complaining. ELIZABETH RICH (THE WASHINGTON POST)

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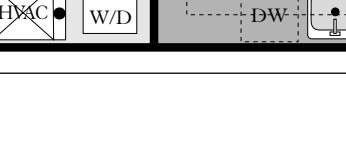
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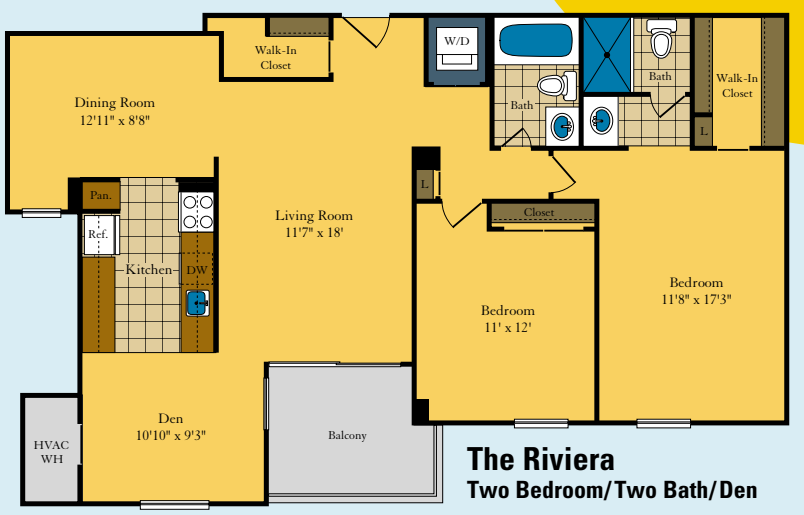
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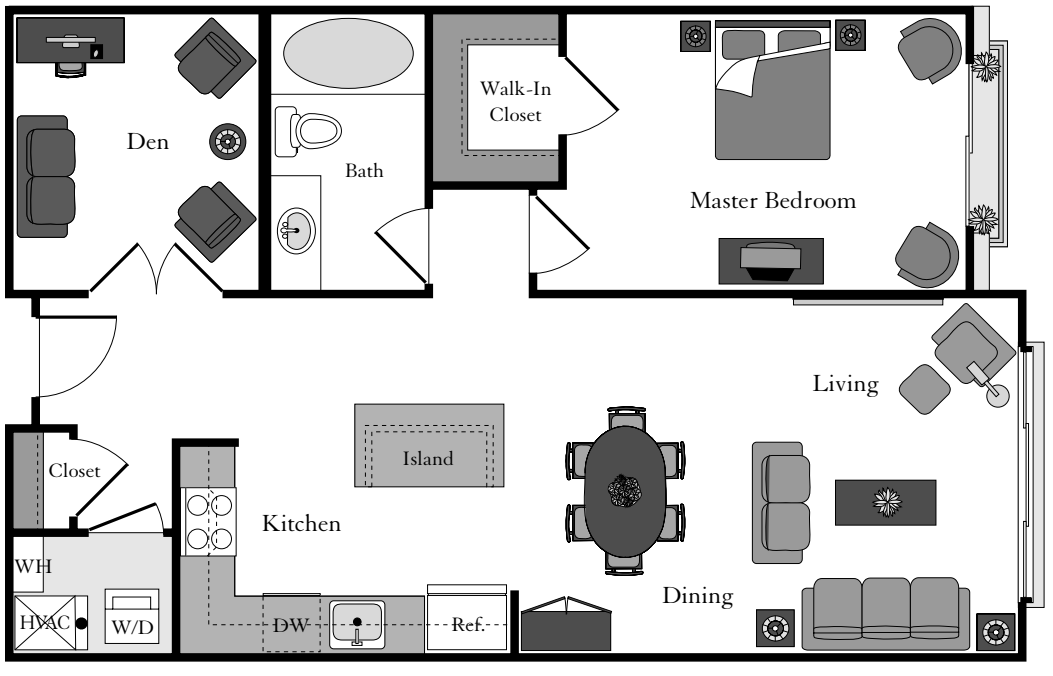
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Contractors and homeowners have to negotiate so everyone is happy

On past home improvement projects, Honey Levitzky couldn't be rid of her contractors soon enough. They made the already disruptive experience more difficult. But then she met Konstantin Romenskii, and she can't have him over enough. He refurbished her Silver Spring basement, drawing up his own plans, and was on call for minor problems.

Gabi Nichols had a less inspiring contractor experience. She hired her best friend's husband to renovate the basement of her Chantilly home, but crews showed up sporadically, electrical outlets were damaged, and subcontractors didn't get paid. "I feel like I was really snowed big time," she said.

On the surface, hiring a contractor is a simple business relationship. But in reality, people who have renovated homes say, letting strangers into one's space for weeks, even months at a time is an act of trust. It can go well, developing into camaraderie and ample referrals. Or it can go wrong, leading to horror stories of unfinished jobs and lawsuits.

The terrain can be just as complicated for contractors. There are the fickle clients who don't know what they want, homeowners who get in the way and, in the worst case, clients who refuse to pay.

"It's sort of like a marriage," said Stephen Sieber, owner of SCS Contracting Group in Burtonsville. "There's a lot of different people and a lot of different variables. It's a challenging situation."

Tales from the front lines of home renovation show both the highs and lows of the contractor-homeowner collaboration, in which relationships can lead to a dream home or a months-long purgatory of missed phone calls and misplaced drywall. But by keeping a clear business plan from the beginning and staying constantly in touch about progress, many of the pitfalls can be avoided.



JAMES M. THRESHER/WASHINGTON POST

In the basement of Maryland homeowner Honey Levitzky, worker Nikolas Evano puts up drywall in an area under renovation.

He seemed like the safest bet. Although he wasn't the lowest bidder for their $50,000 basement renovation, the contractor for the Nicholses' Chantilly home was a family friend who could surely be trusted.

But just weeks into the 2005 job, things started going south. Crews installed carpet before the walls were painted. Nichols found strange pipes sticking out of the walls.

Then about two months into the job, a painter showed up one Saturday morning threatening to put a lien on the house. The main contractor had not paid him, he said.

Crews didn't show up for weeks at a time, so Nichols started compiling a lengthy "punch list" of items that needed to be fixed before the end of the job. She called repeatedly, often begging her contractor to correct problems.



JAMES M. THRESHER/WASHINGTON POST

Debris piled up outside Honey Levitzky's already built sunroom in Silver Spring, where a portion of it was being redone by her contractor, Konstantin Romenskii.

The contractor saw this as nitpicking. He stopped taking her calls, with the basement still in disarray. Nichols said her friend, the contractor's wife, was just as evasive. The two haven't talked since last fall.

"Never deal with friends," said Nichols, who gets "a knot in my stomach" anytime she goes into the basement. "He took that friendship trust thing and turned it around."

The ceiling fan was never installed, tile around the basement sink is still missing, there's no shower bar and, despite repeated requests for a correction, the shower head for her 6-foot-3-inch husband, Jason, is about a foot too low.

> "A lot of people look at contractors as sort of servants, not part of a team, and they treat them accordingly."
>
> **LESLIE SEWELL**, HOMEOWNER

The Washington area Better Business Bureau gets more inquiries about the home remodeling industry than any other. The industry gets the third most complaints, coming in behind cell phone companies and computer and Internet repair.

Homeowners' top gripes are work not starting on time, price increases after work has been started and contractors who don't clean up their messes, according to a survey conducted earlier this year by Opinion Research Corp.

But for every horror story of a rogue repairman bilking a customer, contractors have an equal number of war stories about clients.

According to that survey, the top contractor complaints are customers who want more work without more money, those who make untimely payments and those who try to renegotiate prices.

But the relationship need not be adversarial. Leslie Sewell has worked with a slew of contractors in the past. "I think a lot of people look at contractors as sort of servants, not part of a team, and they treat them accordingly," said Sewell, who lives in Northwest Washington. "A lot of these guys who do this kind

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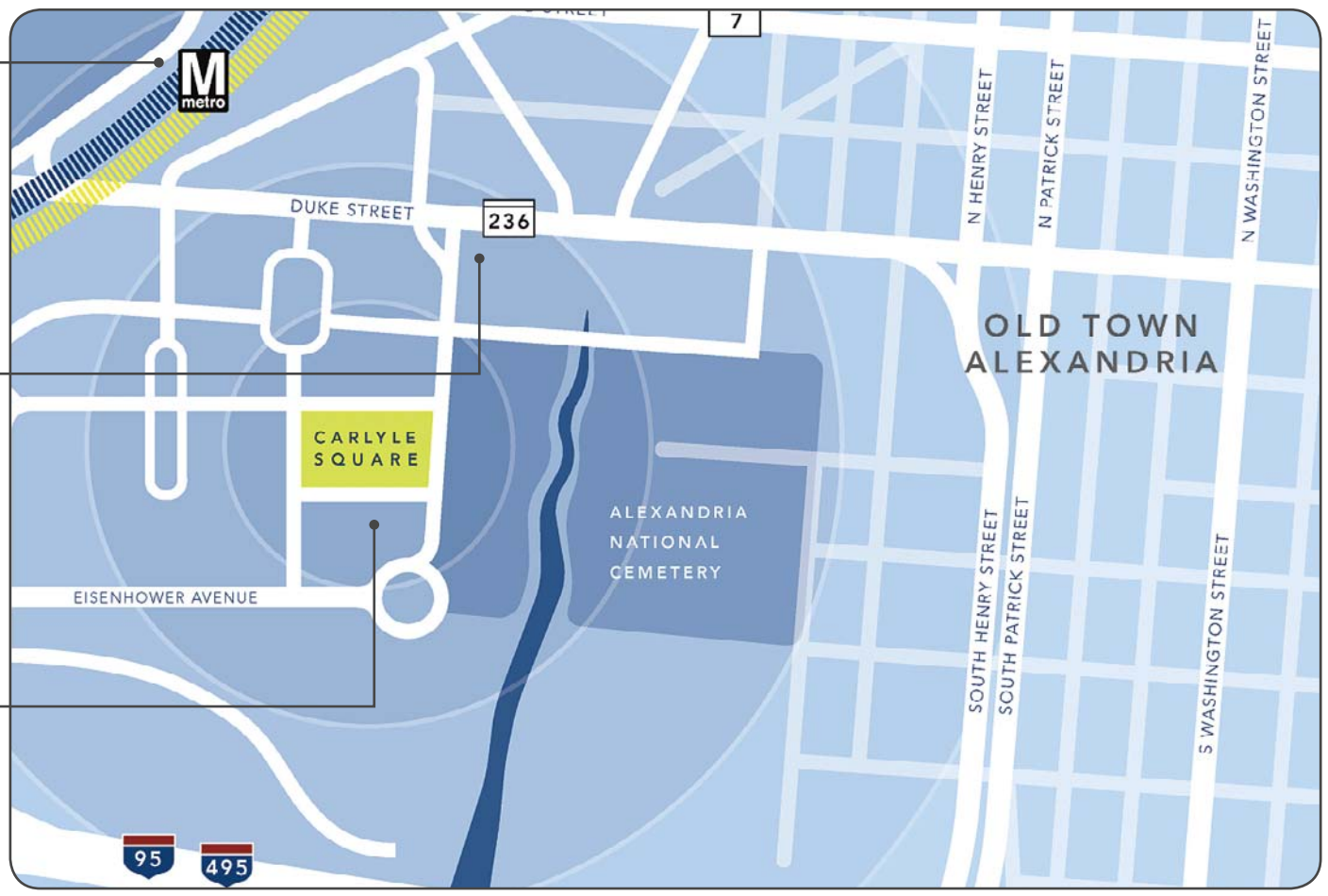
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Contractor Konstantin Romenskii wraps an area of Honey Levitzky's sunroom where he and his work crew had already removed a window and enclosed the area.

Contractors

CONTINUED FROM E22

of work are professionals. They're proud of their work, and they want to be treated that way."

Gordon Green of Multiple Services Inc. in Burke takes pride in tackling any job. But even he was thrown for a loop by one request.

The homeowners were trying to move, but their giant couch wasn't budging. They had put in a living room addition but, by the time the project was complete, the only door to the outside was smaller than the sofa. Movers refused to deal with it, so Green and his crews removed a window to rescue the couch.

The more common challenge, Green said, is the inexperienced customer who lives in an older house.

"An old place is a Pandora's box," he said. "It's like an artichoke where every time you peel back one layer there's another one."

Archaic galvanized pipes and plaster walls make for difficult working conditions and require hardware and materials not usually available at Home Depot or Lowe's.

Add a client who already distrusts contractors, and the job becomes more difficult.

Green said the key for contractors is to make themselves available to the client. As long as clients know they can get a contractor on the phone, the anxiety goes away, he said.

Changes to the work required — and the ensuing price negotiations after a contract has been signed — can mean additional headaches.

"When you're in a grocery store, you don't buy bread and milk and then come to the register to start discussing prices," said Romenskii, of Domus Inc. in Rockville.

He has a small operation, often handling both design and construction for renovations. Past customers have taken advantage of his company's size, he said, refusing to pay their entire bill because they think he can't afford to go to court.

One of his contractor friends was fired from a job because the customer felt he had learned enough about home repair from watching the workers — a sort of free seminar.

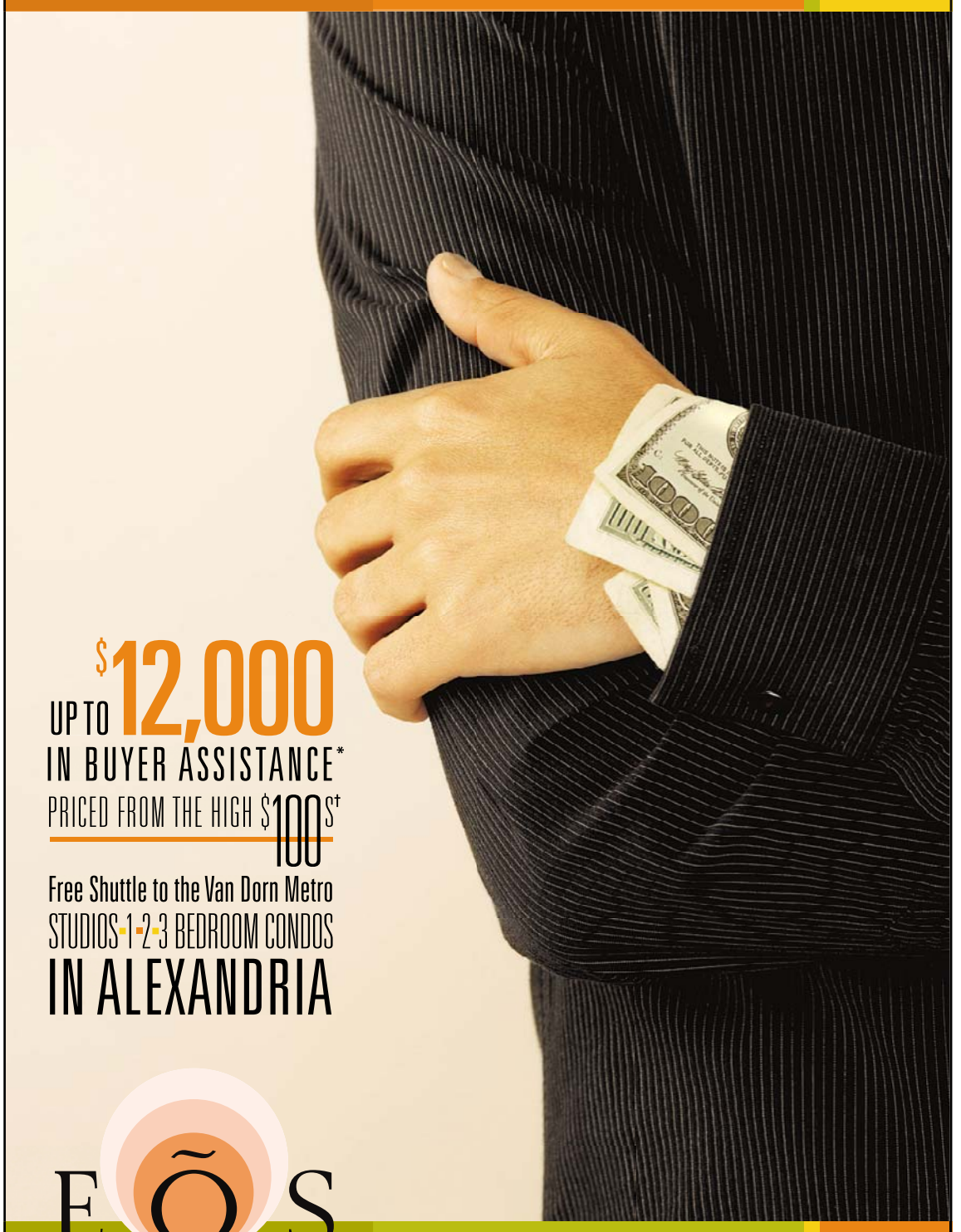
"They're looking at us like it's something they've bought for the time being," Romenskii said. "But we're the ones who are changing their lifestyles."

Levitzky, the Silver Spring homeowner who worked with Romenskii, was so pleased with his plans for her basement that she let him take full control.

"He could have done just about anything downstairs that was in my budget," Levitzky said. "Wherever I go to in the future, he's going to go with me."

CHRIS KIRKHAM (THE WASHINGTON POST)

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